Thursday, May 12, 2011 | Vol. 35 | No. 132 | P10 | www.inquirer.net

COOL Watermelons, the fruit's role of summer, are piled high in a market in Balintawak, Quezon City. Demand for the luscious and thirst-quenching fruit usually rises about this time of year when our nights and days sizzle.

Merci midnight deal hit

Color purple drive for women's rights, RH bill

By Tarra Quismundo

AMID THE raging debate on the reproductive health (RH) bill, former President Fidel V. Ramos yesterday called on President Aquino to certify the measure to Congress as urgent if he wants "to do the right thing."

Speaking at the launch of the "purple (ribbon)" campaign of family planning advocates, Ramos called on Mr. Aquino to mobilize support for the bill, largely hailed by civil society and women's groups but opposed by the Roman Catholic Church.

Purple symbolizes women's rights, organizers said.

"Mr. President, with due respect, for you to do the right thing, you must now certify the RH bill as urgent," said Ramos to the applause of some 500 people, mostly women, at Ciudad Plaza hotel in Cebu City.

He said Aquino, who has expressed support for the bill, should not fear crit-

COLOR /A4

Church wears red ribbons for all-out war / A12

RARE AND ENDANGERED Customs police voice-drafted was to be wrapped in newspaper midtime under a shipment of rare black corals at the Port Area in Manila on Wednesday. The seized contraband came from Cotabato, believed to be a new point of departure.

Biggest catch of rare turtles, corals

By Jocelyn R. Uy

FOR SEVERAL days, Customs officials kept a close eye on a seaport in Metro Manila, hoping to get hold of a "big catch" from the vast coast of southern Philippines headed into two container vans. The vans were declared to be filled with tables.

On May 1, the shipment arrived from Cotabato and authorities thwarted a plot to smuggle out of the country over P35 million worth of rare black corals, sea shells and stuffed green sea turtles, among the endangered and protected species.

"This is a big loss to our rich marine resources.... This is the first big catch of its kind by the Bureau of Customs under the Customs

ROBERT /A4

Dismissed Customs cop chief reinstated

By Leila B. Salaverria and Gil Cabacungan Jr.

FORMER Ombudsman Merceditas "Merci" Gutierrez had ordered the reinstatement of a dismissed Bureau of Customs official shortly before her resignation took effect.

Gutierrez, in a resolution signed on May 4, granted the motion for reconsideration filed by Customs police chief Jose Victhonzen Arbaiza asking to overturn his dismissal from public service for failure to declare his properties in his statement of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALN).

Gutierrez's resignation took effect midnight.

The Office of the Ombudsman earlier ordered Suspension's dismissal after finding him guilty of grave misconduct and dishonesty.

The agency halted Suspension for not disclosing his ownership of a house and lot in Batangas, furniture in Batangas province, Hillsborough property, a house and lot in Pantingan

City, forex amounts worth P1.3 million and agricultural land in Gen. Aliaga province.

Suspension contended that the properties were not in his name and that he was delayed in disclosing them for various reasons, including concerns for his safety in the case of his forex winnings.

He also contested his dismissal in the Court of Appeals, but the latter dismissed his petition on the ground that he resorted to an improper mode of appeal.

Jinjoo Mutia Ibg. Teodoro Gaddis described Gutierrez's act as a midnight deal.

"The best thing to do now is for the next Ombudsman to reverse the reinstatement of Mr. Arbaiza," said Gaddis.

HEROES /A4

LP's fellowship night a virtual 'Losers' Ball'

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Clemente G. Bautista

BY ACCOUNTS, the fellowship night of the Liberal Party (LP) was a virtual "Losers' Ball," with a slew of defeated party members in attendance.

The party was held on Tuesday night, the eve of the filing of the last day for appointment to offices of candidates who lost in the

LP'S FELLOWSHIP /A10

23,000 frenzied fans pack Bieber's concert

By Pschele Calvejuion
Entertainment

ALL JUSTIN Bieber had to do was stand on center stage and survey the audience, even without smiling, and the girls went crazy.

The Canadian teen pop star's concert on Tuesday night at the SM Mall of Asia open-grounds in Pasay City hauled in a crowd of about 23,000, a bit smaller than promoters projected, but one that caused traffic jams around the venue and the same.

Bieber's first time visit here was thus marked by the frenzied reception, but also by the presence of several Filipinos among the performers.

The six-man dance crew Poreotics, half of them Pinoys born in the United States, opened the show. Winner of the talent search "America's Best Dance Crew" Season 5 last year, the group drew loud cheers for its snappy combination of popping and robotics moves.

To further stir up the crowd, a black DJ played dance music as a digital timer counted down the minutes before Bieber mounted the stage.

When finally he appeared, deafening screams nearly drowned out the music. Bieber and his own group of dancers—one of whom he later introduced as another Filipino—marched like toy soldiers to the tune of "Love Me" from

Is Bieber bootly? /A15

THE BIG 'BABY'

Senate starts AFP, Garcia graft probe again today

By Christine V. Figueroa and Doris Z. Pasiliguan

SENATE SEEKS

The Senate blue ribbon committee is reconvening to inquire into corruption in the Armed Forces of the Philippines following the Sandiganbayan's ruling upholding the plea bargain between special state prosecutors and ex-military comptroller Carlos Garcia.

A hearing scheduled to start at 9 a.m. today in the 18th floor conference's inquiry into "the circumstances surrounding the plea bargain agreement" that allowed Garcia to elude a P303 million plunder rap. The goal is to come up with "legislative measures to curtail corruption and promote transparency and accountability.

SENATE /A6

NEWS	NEWS	ACROSS	WORLD	SPORTS
Subic turnover still on sked / A2	**Villar** still richest senator / A2	**2 Swedes** get life for human trafficking / A17	**Bin Laden's** sons hit US over raid / A24	**Bulls** take 3-2 lead vs Hawks / A19

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

2 P.M.
4 0 1 4

LOTTO 6/42 30 27 10 1
LOTTO 6/45 4 6
2 3 4 6
7 6 1

QUARTERS

LOTTO 6/49 7 8 9

MEGALOTTO 6/45
5 19 26 28 30 44
P37,570,719.60

6/55 GRAND LOTTO
6 7 16 18 24 35
P207,202,302.00

Subic turnover still on sked

Villar poorer, but he's still richest in Senate

By Cinnian V Reguerra

SEN. MANUEL Villar lost more than P500 million in assets during his unsuccessful run for presidential last year, but remains as the richest member of the Senate.

Villar, who placed third in the presidential race despite having the biggest campaign kitty, had a net worth of P728.22 million, down from P947.66 million the year before, according to his statement of assets, liabilities and net worth as of Dec. 31, 2010.

Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV kept his place as the poorest senator with a net worth of P1.83 million, which was slightly up from P1.47 million in 2009.

Trillanes' assets, which totaled P1.926 million, included a 120 sqm. property in Cavite, a 300 sqm. residential condominium in Pasonanca City. He had a cash on hand worth P1.2 million, furniture and antiques worth P670,000 and pieces of jewelry worth P400,000. His liabilities totalled P2.68 million.

VILLAR's Retreat

TRILLANES's Poorer

Also second in the list of richest senators for 2010 was Sen. Ralph Recto, who was worth P418.52 million less. Ferdinand "Bong-bong" Marcos Jr. was third with P311.8 million, while Sen. Francis Escudero is next. Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile (seventh) and JPE with P121.71 million and P116.07 million, respectively.

Revilla's worth was slightly up from P123.71 million in 2009, while Enrile's was down from P138.8 million.

Sen. Jinggoy Estrada earned P1.8 million last year worth P93.16 million. His net worth was P94.03 million in 2009. Sen. Sergio Osmeña III placed seventh with P82.3 million, while Sen. Pia Cayetano had P76.77 million.

Sen. Teofisto Guingona III placed ninth (P72.97 million). Closing it by Sen. Edgardo Angara with P70.09 million. Angara's worth was up from P66.2 million in 2009.

The rest of the senators declared the following net worth for 2010: Majority leader Vicente Sotto III (P48.96 million), Loren Legarda (P45.34 million), Juan Miguel Zubiri (P41.32 million), Jamby Madrigal (P39.73 million), Gregorio Honasan (P40.3 million), Franklin Drilon (P33.44 million), Serge Osmeña III (P32.72 million), Gilberto Teodoro (P19.31 million), Manuel Lapid (P18.9 million), Alan Peter Cayetano (P13.86 million), Panfilo Lacson (P9.24 million) and Pimentel (P9.202 million).

Arreza says SBMA chair to assume office June 3

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—A top official of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) yesterday insisted that incoming SBMA Administrator Rafael Reyes had not resigned and would assume office after the latter completes his responsibilities in his present job.

In a statement, outgoing SBMA Administrator Armand Arreza denied reports that the "appointment of [an] new replacement had been lifted, and that the incoming official had backed out from the position of SBMA administrator."

Last week, ilocking SBMA Chair Roberto Garcia said the buzzsaw that Reyes had quit before he could assume office. Garcia on Tuesday said he was standing by his statement on Reyes' resignation.

Garcia and Reyes were appointed by President Aquino on April 7 to replace Feliciano Salonga and Arreza, respectively.

Arreza said Salonga will turn over the chairmanship of the SBMA board on Garcia on June 3.

Separate turn over

But the SBMA statement said Reyes has "neither accepted the appointment nor backed out from serving as Arreza's replacement and may have a separate turnover ceremony before assuming the post."

"Reyes' appointment is not ... fake, nor did he resign or back out as news reports had said," said Arreza.

He said Reyes is still connected with a private company "which there an impasse on matters and important issues that he has to attend to before formally accepting the SBMA appointment."

He became irate for failed to obtain Reyes' statement on the issue.

Ricmi Fernando, SBMA's deputy administrator for corporate communications, declined to say whether Garcia was consulted about the statement released by the agency which refuted his statements.

Earlier, Basic Conversion and Development Authority Chair Felicito Payumo, a former SBMA chair, said he had no doubt that Garcia told the truth about Reyes' quitting.

"What would be his motive to lie about Reyes' resignation?" Payumo said.

No motive to lie

Asked how the rift at the SBMA's leadership might impact on the agency's operations, Payumo said: "Even if Reyes changes his mind, now said says he is not resigning, he will only succeed in making Garcia a lame duck the two will reach regardless?"

"Maybe it is now time to allow Garcia to recommend for the administrator position. After all, they have to work together closely," Payumo added.

He said Republic Act 7227 (Bases Conversion and Development Act of 1992) states that the positions of chair and administrator are one or "the chair, who is the head of the agency, should have some say on the appointments of the administrator."

Positions split

The positions of SBMA chair and administrator were split in August 2004 by former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's Executive Order 298, paving the way for Panlilio's (then a PDP-Laban member) appointment to head the SBMA as chair and administrator, respectively.

When Limasawa and dominio resigned in 2005, Arroyo appointed Salonga and Arreza to replace them.

"The split done by EO 340 can be questioned since it is not in accordance with the law. Second, it is conducive to conflict [between the two heads of SBMA]," said Payumo. *Robert Gonzaga, Inquirer Central Luzon*

Loren pushes bill setting up LGUs 'survival funds'

By TJ Burgonio

SEN. LOREN Legarda has pushed for a bill setting up a "survival fund" to help local government units adapt to powerful storms, sea-level rise, droughts and other climate crisis.

Other than "disappearing" 2,000 Capers, bogus round of talks on climate change, and the "shame" of the failure of the 2010 Cancun meeting, Legarda stressed the need for a "stronger domestic steps" to crucial on projecting local governments and communities for the effects of climate change.

Enacted in these steps would be a "survival fund" that would provide resources toward supporting "ground level work" of local governments and communities to climate change adaptation, she said.

"This proposal is anchored on the fact that we need to devote adequate responsibilities and resources for climate change efforts. It is time to put the interest of the people to motivate local participation and create programs that matter to our people," she said in her sponsorship speech of the bill.

The "survival fund" will serve as a trust fund to finance adaptation programs and projects funded on the National Strategic Framework and the National Climate Change Action Plan, Legarda said.

It will also be used to support local government's adaptation activities in water resources management, land management, agriculture and fisheries, health, infrastructure development and natural ecosystems.

It will be used to boost the monitoring of extreme-home diseases spawned by climate change, as well as forecasting and early warning systems, support planning, preparedness and management of impacts of climate change, and if necessary, establish regional centers for rapid response to extreme climate events, among others.

LEGARDA

In effect, the bill will amend the Climate Change Act of 2009.

The fund will be sourced from cash dividends of government-owned and controlled corporations, proceeds from the sale of emissions reduction carbon credits, and funds collected from the Motor Vehicle User's Charge.

An annual money some P4 billion will be allotted from the President's contingency fund.

"Without early adaptive action, the continued annual rise in sea levels can decimate the livelihood of entire Filipino coastal communities irreversibly and through the intrusion of saltwater, irreversibly damage countless farms," Legarda said.

Without such an action, rising temperatures could irreparably destroy soil and crop productivity, and changes in average rainfall could interfere communities, she added.

DFA seeks lifting of US travel warning

By Jerry E. Esplanada

THE DEPARTMENT of Foreign Affairs has again asked the United States to lift its travel warning on the Philippines, citing "improved security conditions in the country."

The US travel advisory was issued last Nov. 1 and the DFA is hoping it would now be lifted, said Assistant Foreign Secretary Eduardo Malaya, the DFA spokesperson.

At the same time, Malaya noted that the US recently raised a global travel alert in light of possible reprisals following the killing of Osama bin Laden, the leader of the al-Qaida international terror network.

In an advisory issued last May 1, the US State Department warned against a possible outbreak of anti-American violence worldwide, citing the "uncertainty and volatility of the current situation."

Rebecca Thompson, the spokesperson of the US Embassy in Manila, said Washington's standing travel warning on the Philippines "remains in effect for now" until it is updated.

Thompson earlier explained that the US travel advisory is "typically updated routinely approximately every six months."

The Nov. 2 alert warned Americans against the "risk of terrorist activity" in the Philippines.

According to the State Department, "terrorist attacks could be indiscriminate and could occur not only in Mindanao, but also in other areas, including Manila."

It also asked Americans to "exercise extreme caution if traveling in coastal and western Mindanao, as well as to the Sulu archipelago."

Yesterday, Nahdatul, party-list representative Raymond Palatino called the standing US travel alert a "setback for Philippine tourism and economy."

"Our leaders should sit down with US embassy officials and urge them to review the advisory. Or maybe the US has time to see a good-looking Filipino girl. They should share it with Philippine officials so that we can prepare and be assisted," said Palatino.

Nadhtaiyan chair Nestor Cimatu also assailed the US for "using such terror scare tactics to justify intensifying military intervention in the country."

"We are also issuing a terror advisory to Filipinos: US imperialism is the real terrorist, instigating wars, killing civilians and violating peoples' sovereignty across the globe," Cimatu said.

In late 2010, President Aquino criticized the travel warnings issued by Manila-based foreign embassies, saying they were not based on "in-intelligence."

Meanwhile, US Ambassador to the Philippines Harry Thomas Jr. has called for continued vigilance against terrorists.

"We always have to be vigilant anywhere in the world because the whole world has been the victim of terrorists," Thomas told reporters at a European Union reception last Monday.

According to the envoy, the US has "full confidence in President Aquino and his national security team. They're doing a good job...The Philippines is doing a great job."

Surprise drug tests conducted on narcs

By DJ Yap

MEMBERS of the Philippine National Police's Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Operations Task Force (AIDSOTF) were jolted yesterday when their new commander ordered them to undergo an instantaneous drug test.

Saying he wanted to weed out drug abusers from the task force, Deputy Director General Reid Castañeda ordered a drug test administered on some 120 members of the special narcotics unit.

"I believe as a narcotics officer, before you implement our drug laws, you should have the moral ascendancy to do so. The best way to do it is a drug test, to make sure all our personnel are drug free," said Castañeda, who became No. 3 at the PNP when he assumed command of the AIDSOTF.

He said he wanted to take the AIDSOTF personnel by surprise.

"Before I met them as the new commander, I already had this idea, as I coordinated with the crime lab to surprise them all," Castañeda said.

Under the law, those who test positive may voluntarily check themselves into a rehabilitation facility, but they will still face administrative sanctions upon their discharge, Castañeda said.

The police official said he wanted to eradicate drugs-taking from the task force. He said he did not believe narcotics police, including undercover agents, needed to take drugs to penetrate drug syndicates.

"I was a narcotic (the Narcotics Command) director for three years. We penetrated many syndicates without having to take drugs," he said.

To set an example, Castañeda said he was the first to take the test.

The AIDSOTF personnel were required to submit urine samples which the crime laboratory will process. Castañeda said a budget of about P50 per police man was set for the test.

There are as yet no plans to administer a more accurate drug test involving hair samples.

"How can that be? I have no hair strands of hair left and you want to take them away?" Castañeda said.

THE COLOR PURPLE Former President Fidel V. Ramos shares a light moment with former Health Secretary Esperanza Cabral during yesterday's launch of the Purple Ribbon for Reproductive Health. The movement was launched by family planning advocates at the Crown Plaza Hotel yesterday in support of the Reproductive Health Bill pending in Congress. ROMEO RAZO

P-Noy prods justice, finance execs on tax cases

PRESIDENT Aquino has directed justice and finance officials to find a way to make the El cas evasion cases filed by his administration—including the one against party-list representative Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo—move faster through the courts and secure convictions.

Mr. Aquino gave the directive at a meeting he called yesterday to "review how the tax evasion cases are going" with Bureau of Internal Revenue Commissioner Kim Henares, Justice Secretary Leila de Lima and Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima.

"The President is happy with the pace in which the cases are being filed and we're confident that the cases are solid. But there's a tendency that once the cases go to court, the process tends to take a while," Communications Secretary Ricky Carandang said.

Carandang said the discussions were "more of a general review of the progress of the cases" and did not specifically take up the case against Mikey Arroyo, the eldest of two sons of former President and now Pampanga Rep. Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

He said it was "not just the President" who wanted faster convictions.

"I think Purisima, De Lima and Henares also want the cases to move forward more quickly," Carandang said, stressing that the administration would respect the judicial process while looking for ways to speed up the adjudication.

"They have to go back and look for... reasse [illegible] the many elements in this process that we don't have control of, it's the judiciary," he said.

Carandang noted that some tax cases have been pending in the courts for five to six years, "so it is a little slow."

"It's something for the lawyers to figure out because it takes a lot of knowledge about the legal processes. The ideas would primarily come from Henares and De Lima," he said.

Christine Avendaño

Palace to field own bets if ARMM polls push through

By Norman Bordadora

MALACAÑANG will have its own administration candidates run in the elections in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) if it has its way in postponing the polls bids in the Senate.

"We will have to field candidates for the positions to make sure that we can institute much-needed reforms in the region," said deputy presidential spokesperson Abigail Valte.

Those opposed to any postponement of the ARMM polls have said the proposed bill to effect that postponement may not likely pass the Senate.

Asked if the Malacañang plan to field its own candidates was an indication that the bill would fail in the Senate, Valte said, "We always say you hope for the best but you prepare for the worst."

The idea of the administration fielding its own candidates for the ARMM elections came following a series of meetings on the bill between Mr. Aquino and a number of senators on the bill.

According to Valte, no head count was made among the senators in favor of postponement and those who are not.

But ex-senator Aquilino Pimentel Jr., the author of the ARMM Organic Law who is against the postponement, believes he senators would reject Mr. Aquino's call for them to support the postponement of the ARMM polls.

"I am confident that our senators can see through the unconstitutionality of postponing the ARMM election through a simple piece of legislation that will not be subjected to scrutinies," Pimentel said.

Mr. Aquino has explained that he wanted the ARMM elections deferred to make time for reforms in the region's governance and politics to take hold.

Malacañang plans to appoint officers in charge to take over from the ARMM officials when terms end mid-June this year.

The officers-in-charge will supposedly lay the foundations for the reforms that would eliminate corruption and end politicians' control of the elections with their armies of voters.

Mr. Aquino wants the date of the ARMM elections reset to coincide with the midterm national elections in 2013.

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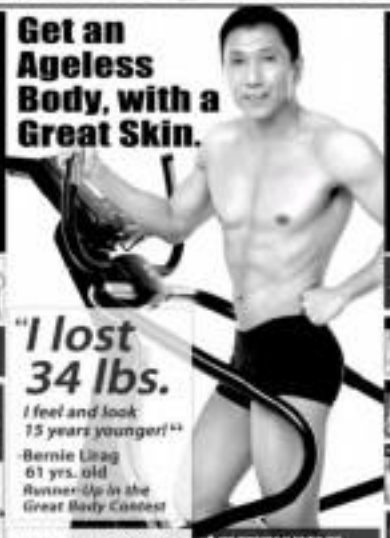

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Jail inmates with TB to get onsite treatment

By Cristine O. Avendaño

THE GOVERNMENT will soon transfer funds to have tuberculosis, or TB, treatment facilities in jails in Metro Manila, and they will be rented on site so there would be less security risk.

Bojoy presidential spokesperson Abigail Valte said the directive came from Interior and Local Government Secretary Jesse Robredo as she noted that tuberculosis is the second leading cause of death among inmates.

Valte said the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology of the National Capital Region has directed health workers to go to the jail to inspect inmates for possible tuberculosis infections.

"They are supposing a certain area for inmates who have tuberculosis so they can be treated on site," she told reporters.

The idea used was a departure from the previous practice where inmates had to be brought out to government hospitals for treatment.

"We have rest and [low-security] risk for us to send the health workers inside," she said.

DOC'S EXPLANATION SOUGHT

Judge questions Ampatuan hospitalization

By Philip C. Tubeza

CAN ANSIL Ampatuan Jr. be brought to a hospital just as a suspect?

Quezon City Judge Jocelyn Solis-Reyes has ordered a Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) doctor to explain her recommendation that the Ampatuan clan patriarch be brought to the Philippine Medical Center for treatment of his leg ailment.

In an order issued on May 5, Reyes told Chief Insp. Ma. Victoria E. Veloria to explain why she wanted to let 70-year-old Ampatuan's patriarch be taught to the latter state of the Mental Health Center, a prisoner hospital, for further evaluation and management."

Veloria, chief of the BJMP Health Service Unit in Metro Manila, and Chief Insp. Lorna Tayag in examined Ampatuan on May 4 and found nothing can be left under pain.

Federal diagnosis was contradictory and recommended that Ansiel be brought to the Makati Med as an "outpatient."

But prosecutor Assistant Provincial Prosecutor Panfilo Lacson noted that Ansiel's premature problems that affected his right leg, not his left ankle.

"He will appear chair. We will oppose his transfer to a private hospital," Santos told reporters during a break at the hearing in Camp Bagong Diwas.

Santos earlier said that Ansiel is "not a "Rights rich" and that a prosecution witness had told the court that the accused had previously feigned sickness just to avoid arrest.

Maguindanao Gov. Esmael "Toto" Mangudadatu also said that bringing Ansiel Sr. to a private hospital might be his "means of escape."

He added that the Ampatuan patriarch might just be trying to avoid facing arraignment for the rape-slaughter of 58 victims, including 32 journalists.

The arraignment, originally scheduled for yesterday, was postponed to May 19 after lawyer Panfilo Reid and Assistant Provincial Prosecutor Cobling, who represented the state, were unable to conduct the arraignment because of the absence of the accused.

Reid pointed to two typographical errors in Cobling's report.

The two also pitched Cobling for failing to get a permit from local health officials or concerned officials, but for subscribing the bodies of the victims.

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Sacked Customs cop chief: I'm back to work now

By Philip C. Tubeza

DISMISSED Customs police chief Jose Tuchangco defended his reinstatement by Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez, shortly before the resigned, saying he won his appeal based on its merits.

"I filed a motion for reconsideration with the Ombudsman and I won it through the merits of my case. This is like a reappointment," Tuchangco said in a phone interview.

"I think they went through my 30-year record in government and were convinced by my arguments. You just can't influence them," he added.

Tuchangco dismissed as baseless the accusations that he had amassed ill-gotten fortune while at the Bureau of Customs.

"That's nothing. Complained that in my motion which I filed more than two months ago," he said.

Valentine's Day

Tuchangco said he immediately filed a motion for reconsideration after receiving the Ombudsman's order dismissing him from government service on Feb. 14.

"That was Valentine's Day. It was painful. That's why I immediately filed my motion after receiving a copy of the order from the Ombudsman," he said.

Tuchangco said he reported back to work and personally went to Customs Commissioner Angelino Alvarez to tell him what happened.

Back to work

"The order was effective the day it was issued, so I'm back to work now," he said.

Tuchangco also said the Court of Appeals had no jurisdiction over the case because he had withdrawn his motion for certiorari to the appellate court.

"It was not an appeal but a motion for certiorari to stop the Ombudsman's order because I was questioning why it was issued by (Deputy Ombudsman) Mark Jahaziel who signed it," Tuchangco said.

"I'm a veteran investigator and I noticed that in other dismissal orders there are usually five signatories but here it was only Mark Jahaziel, so I questioned that. But I withdrew it later," he added.

He maintained that all the charges against him were fabricated by people who were hurt by the war he waged against smugglers.

"My reinstatement is well-deserved and based solely on the merits of the arguments and pieces of evidence put together by my lawyers," he said.

Merci defends midnight reappointment of Customs top cop

From page A1

Bayan Muna Rep. Teddy Casiño said Gutierrez should have not made any move not in her office after the handed her resignation letter on April 29 since this could have been handled by her successor.

'Dedicadess'

"There was no need to rush it, especially since the Court of Appeals denied Mr. Tuchangco's plea," said Colmenares in an interview.

Colmenares, a member of the House prosecution team in the aborted impeachment trial of Gutierrez in the Senate, said that with all eyes on all her actions, Gutierrez should have acted with more "dedicadess."

Error of judgment

In a May 6 joint order, Gutierrez said Tuchangco's has declaration of several of his assets "was merely an error of judgment and misapprehension of what should and should not be included in his SALN."

She cited a Supreme Court ruling in which a public works official was cleared of liability over his failure to declare assets in his SALN because there was no intention on his part to hide his assets.

Gutierrez said that in Tuchangco's case, he exerted efforts to fix the inaccuracies in his SALN.

"In like manner, we view the previous statements or omissions in his SALNs not as a deliberate manifestation of intent to commit a crime or resort to commit administrative infraction," she said.

She said that in the complaint of dishonesty against Tuchangco, it should have been shown that the erroneous entries on his SALN were made with the intent to lie, cheat, deceive or defraud. But the complainant had failed to do this, she said.

Excusable negligence

As for the gross misconduct allegation against the customs police chief, Gutierrez said Tuchangco's erroneous SALN declarations would not be considered absolute false declaration.

"The inaccuracies in respondent's SALNs were made out of unintentional oversight and excusable negligence," she said.

"There was neither enough evidence to show Tuchangco's willful and malicious intent to make false declarations in his SALN," she added.

The Internet tried to get a comment from Acting Ombudsman Orlando Casimiro on the ruling reinstating Tuchangco, but chief assistant said his office was still reviewing the background of the case.

Gutierrez daughter

Asked about insinuations that the ruling was a midnight resolution, Gutierrez's daughter, lawyer Margarita Gutierrez, said that was not true.

"The former Ombudsman did what was required and justified based on the evidence. We ask everyone to look first into the facts of the case before making any judgment," she said.

Finance Secretary Cesar V.

CLUELESS: Excusable negligence

FLUSHING OUT: Like a reappointment

Purisima will be a sure-of-his department are on the order from the Office of the Ombudsman remaining Tuchangco but only after determining "if there is really such an order."

Officials at the Department of Finance's Office of the Secretary said the department had not officially received the order from the Ombudsman although it got hold of a document that purports to be such an order.

In any case, they said, the DOF/Revenue Integrity Protection Service, which filed the complaint against Tuchangco, shall take the necessary steps if there was an order.

The DOF had submitted "in-writing" the order last Tuesday, but later backtracked when asked whether Tuchangco would be reinstated. With a report from Romuel M. Bonoan

Senate starts AFP, Garcia graft probe again

From page A1

ty in the government."

Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin and Gen. Eduardo Oban Jr., the AFP chief of staff, have been invited to testify.

The committee chair, Sen. Teofisto Guingona III, said the assistant court's ruling was "puzzling" and "unreasonable," the chief information discovered during the previous hearings, all indicating plunder suspect Garcia purported ill-gotten wealth.

Troop morale

But Guingona refused to buckle under the Sandiganbayan ruling, saying the battle was the bona fide.

"If it were lasting, [that's] just Round 1. We still have Round 2," he told reporters.

Oban rallied senior officials at Camp Aguinaldo general headquarters yesterday to check on troop morale in the wake of the Sandiganbayan's decision to let Garcia off the hook.

It was a reaction to the warning aired by Merceditas Rep. Rodolfo Fabros, a former AFP chief of staff, the other day.

Commission Miguel Rodriguez, the spokesperson of the AFP and its deputy chief of staff for civil military operations, told reporters that Oban's meeting was being taken seriously.

"Concerns [Fabros] comes from, he is a barometer of sorts. We listen to him always. We're looking into that, in fact that's what [Oban] discussed with us—the rumbling [from] the ranks," Rodriguez said.

Rodriguez admitted that the Sandiganbayan ruling upholding the plea bargain with Garcia was a setback.

"It is saddening to note that these things are happening at a time when we're pushing for reforms. It would have helped if the decision ever otherwise, but we respect [it]. This is the law that we are supposed to uphold," he said.

Rodriguez said demoralization among the troops was "possible but highly unpredictable," and was not likely to develop into serious grumbling.

"We've come so far in terms of professionalism. If there will be mumblings and discontent, we will only make things worse," he said.

No more conversion

Rodriguez said the AFP leadership had realized that in order to deal with desertion, it had to demonstrate its seriousness to do away with anomalous practices.

He said they should abuse soldiers that there would be no more fund conversion, or the illegal practice of converting to cash those funds allocated to procure specific supplies.

"General Oban wants to instigate reforms. This has motivated us to do this with urgency. The public's trust is most important for soldiers," Rodriguez said.

With the Sandiganbayan throwing out the plunder case against Garcia, the AFP is forced to determine whether the past leadership had helped build up the case against the former comptroller.

Oban also directed the AFP judge advocate general, Brig. Gen. Gilberto Roa, to coordinate with the Office of the Solicitor

GARCIA: Back to face Senate's probe today

General to appeal the court's ruling.

Rodriguez said he was not aware if the military had provided evidence to back the government's case against Garcia. "We thought we've had a good case," he said.

He expressed belief that the court's ruling would encourage corruption. "Pressure, yes. Many people are [also] saying that," he said.

Cut of worms

The AFP is also looking forward to the end of the Senate blue ribbon committee's inquiry into the plea bargain, which opened a can of worms on the extent of corruption in the military including purported tanong and send-off cash gifts to chiefs of staff.

Oban a to testify today on what the military had done to address the corruption allegations.

"After that, we should move on," Rodriguez said, adding that the military was learning from the public perception that it was the most corrupt government agency.

"Institutionally, we believe that for as long as the Senate blue ribbon [inquiry] is continued, we will always be in the corrupt list," he said.

Before the Easter break, Guingona announced that the last of the blue ribbon committee's hearings on corruption in the military would focus on gathering suggestions to prevent corrupt practices such as fund conversion.

In the past hearings, Guingona said Garcia had "miserably failed to prove the sources of his vast resources."

"Given his failure to explain, we can only surmise that those hundreds of millions of pesos belong to the people," the senator said.

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Sandigan justices 'accomplices'

JOY LUCENDOMAN Bagong Pag party-list group Gabriela said the Sandiganbayan justices who upheld the plea bargain with ex-military comptroller Carlos Garcia had become accomplices in plunder.

"They have also become instruments of injustice and are thus endangering all those justices and members there to prosecute corrupt and plunderous government officials and make them responsible for their crimes against the people," Ilagan said.

Bagong Pag. Rep. Liza Maza, also of Gabriela, have condemned a resolution condemning the Sandiganbayan's ruling.

"[The justices'] impudence and haste in the dismissal of the plea bargain agreement is highly suspicious and totally unacceptable," Ilagan said.

She said the ruling reflected the government's lack of political will against corruption.

"More importantly, it says a lot about how the Sandiganbayan justices regard their responsibility toward the Filipino people. Clearly, they have betrayed the people's trust and will have to be made accountable as well," she said. Jeff-ay M. Tupas, Inquirer Mindanao

PCGG gets authority to dismiss gov't execs in sequestered firms

By Norman Bordadora

MALACAÑANG Agustus has given government authority to the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) to dismiss government-appointed directors in sequestered corporations and replace them with new ones.

Executive Order No. 02, signed by Mr. Aquino and Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr., on May 9, said the dismissed officials may be replaced with up to two members from the PCGG.

According to the EO, the provisional authority is to be exercised by the PCGG chair and the appointment of the provisional director will be valid until the President appoints a permanent replacement.

The justification for the dismissal is that a number of nominee-directors occupying positions in the sequestered positions were doing so in a holdover capacity from the Arroyo administration.

"There is a need to ensure that the directors appointed to these positions are faithful in the discharge of their fiduciary duties and in serving and safeguarding the interests of the Philippine and the Filipino people," the EO said.

All government-nominated directors will be required to submit to the PCGG monthly reports or as often as may be required on the affairs, developments and transactions affecting the respective corporations, the EO said.

The PCGG is to submit a detailed summary of these reports "from time to time" to the President.

According to the President, the EO is meant to prevent paralysis in the sequestered firms while making sure that the government's interest is adequately represented.

Deputy Presidential Spokesperson Abigail Valte said Malacañang is confident that EO 02 can withstand legal scrutiny.

"We believe that, again, should it be taken to task, it will stand judicial scrutiny," Valte said.

A number of Mr. Aquino's executive orders have been challenged before the courts.

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FREE INSTALLATION

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NEED NOT LEAD TO BALDNESS
Time to act!
ULTIMATE

THE DAILY GOSPEL

May 12 (Thursday)
Psalter: Week 3
3rd Week of Easter
Memo: Achilleus; Pancras
Psalm 8:4, 66:17, 20

Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.
1st Reading: Acts 8:26-40

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Go south toward the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza, the desert road." So he set out and it happened that an Ethiopian was passing along that way. ... The Spirit said to Philip, "Go and catch up with that carriage." So Philip ran up and heard the man reading the prophet Isaiah; and he asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" The Ethiopian replied, "How can I, unless some one explains it to me?" So then he asked Philip to get in and sit beside him. ... The official asked Philip, "Tell me, please, does the prophet speak of himself or of someone else?"

Then Philip began to tell him the Good News of Jesus, using that text of Scripture as his starting point. As they traveled down the road they came to a place where there was some water. Then the Ethiopian official said, "Look, here is water; what is to keep me from being baptized?" Then he ordered the carriage to stop; both Philip and the Ethiopian went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord took Philip away. The Ethiopian saw him no more, but he continued on his way full of joy.

Philip found himself at Azotus, and he went about announcing the Good News to all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

Gospel: Jn 6:44-51

Jesus said to the crowds: "No one can come to me unless he is drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise him up on the last day. It has been written in the Prophets: They shall all be taught by God. So whoever listens and learns from the Father comes to me.

"Not as one has seen the Father except the One who comes from God, he has seen the Father. Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life.

"I am the bread of life. Though your ancestors ate the manna in the desert, they died. But here you have the bread which comes from heaven so that you may eat of it and not die.

"I am the living bread which has come from heaven; whoever eats of this bread will live forever. The bread I shall give is my flesh and I will give it for the life of the world."

Reflection:

The quality of the bread is determined by many factors and bakeries with consistently good bread are usually sought by people. Jesus offers us a bread so divine that it could transform our lives. He says He are the saints who are so thinking whether it is a good bread or not? Perhaps, the fault is not on the "bread which came from heaven" but the "distributors" from whom only this bread is available to others. Do I be that spice our challenge, let us offer the bread of Jesus to others in our everyday ways by showing to others how this "bread from heaven" has transformed our lives.

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Church sees red symbol of life, declares 'all-out war'

By Jocelyn R. Uy

IT'S NOW an "all-out war" and the Catholic Church will say it with red.

Despite exerting consensus from lives with Malacañang on the reproductive health (RH) bill, Catholic Church leaders yesterday vowed to mount a campaign opposing the family planning measure using pulpits and red-colored pro-life bumper stickers.

"The social arm of the Church is to continue with its own ways of propagating and promoting the Gospel of Life and preaching the sanctity of life," said Msgr. Jesús is Pigura, secretary general of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP).

Figura on Tuesday announced to a news conference the Church's decision to discontinue its dialogue with Malacañang after President Aquino's shelved plans to implement his own responsible parenthood agenda, which bishops deemed as the same as those RH No. 4244.

Halting the dialogues, the Catholic Church would continue with its own means to fight the RH bill, Figura said. "We will also speak against HB 4244 if necessary."

Red symbolizes life

Lipa Archbishop Ramon Arguelles said yesterday the Church should step up its "all-out war" against the bill that would espouse and make available the use of artificial birth control methods among 93 point couples.

"It's natural for us to declare an all-out war against the RH bill," said Arguelles over Church-run Radio Veritas. "We should pursue to campaign against it and to educate the people against the legislative measure."

Catholic bishops agreed to the public advisories' idea of asking people loyal to the RH bill being pushed in Congress to tie red ribbons and put up anti-RH bill stickers and posters in their homes, business establishments and even in their vehicles.

Celebrate Auxiliary Bishop Jose Colin Bagaoisan has expressed his support for the similar campaign to fight the RH bill. He said it was one way of raising public awareness on the family planning bill.

He even suggested that families can also put red ribbons outside their homes. Red symbolizes life, noted the prelate.

Issues not personalities

During the Summit Day of Prayer on Monday, Roman Bishop Juan de Dios Pueblos encouraged people to observe the occasion by wearing blue or white shirts or ribbons to show their solidarity against the bill.

"The Church will continue to air its views and sentiments against the bills not in dialogues but in pulpits and during homilies," Figura told reporters.

"Part of the mission of the Church is to teach in season and out of season on the sanctity of life," added the CBCP official.

He also stressed that the Church's campaign against the RH bill was not centered on its proponents and supporters. "We are talking of issues here not of personalities. We don't take it against [them] personally ... we take it against the bill itself."

DOH shrugs off Sotto allegations of funds misuse

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE DEPARTMENT of Health (DOH) yesterday shrugged off allegations of misuse of its funds, saying all subsidies for reproductive health and family planning had been properly accounted for and allocated to all local government units (LGUs).

Health Secretary Enrique Ona said over P700 million was earmarked for the campaign from 2008 to 2010 had been released upon compliance by LGUs of DOH requirements, including local ordinance and liquidation reports.

"A significant cause of delay in the release is the failure of LGUs to liquidate amounts from the past grants," explained Ona, "Many LGUs consider the grants as separate from their local family health budget, with its work and financial plan."

Claiming that funds for family health in the past had been mishandled, Sen. Vicente Sotto III alleged on Tuesday that the provinces of Ilocos Norte, Quezon, Batangas and Laguna did not receive a single centavo for the projects.

Ona said the provincial health office of Ilocos Norte received P649,525.00 and P602,500 in 2008 and 2009, respectively.

Liquidation report required

But the release of some P5.47 million for Ilocos Norte for 2010 was put on hold pending its submission to the DOH of its annual agreement on its health investment plan for the province, he said.

The local governments of Calabarzon, including Quezon, Batangas and Laguna City were being required by their local auditors to submit liquidation reports on previous fund releases, Ona said.

In 2008, the DOH gave family health grants amounting to P536 million to local governments.

Since 2009, the department has also been giving the same grants to some LGUs in provinces a "one package" of maternal, newborn and child health and nutrition services, Ona said.

The total grants for the projects amounted to P267 million and P467 million in 2009 and 2010, respectively, he said.

"We are working with the LGUs to address the bottlenecks in fund utilization and reporting to fast-track the release of much-needed funds for improving the health of our mothers and children," said Ona.

Color purple drive for women's rights, RH bill launched

From page A1

topics as the people are behind him.

"Let me appeal to our highest elected leader who occupies Malacañang, our beloved President Aquino. At your helm—God's as—we ask his excellency to lead the campaign for the enactment of the RH bill," Ramos said.

Ramos noted that the country was among nations who signed an agreement in Cairo back in 1994, when he was President, to cut infant mortality and maternal deaths that the bill hopes to address.

He cited Spanos counting some 500,000 maternal deaths every year, 97 percent of which are recorded in developing countries.

Some 4,700 Filipino mothers die of pregnancy or childbirth complications, said former Health Secretary Esperanza Cabral.

Cabral joined former Health Secretary Alberto Romualdez, Rizal Provincial Administrator Nini Tanjuatco and Iloilo Rep. Jerry Treñas, artists and representatives of

RH BILL ADVOCATES Former President Fidel Ramos leads the pledge of commitment and support for the RH bill during the launching of the Purple Ribbon for Reproductive Health.

IMAGINE Singer Leah Salonga sings "Imagine" by John Lennon during the launching of the Purple Ribbon for Reproductive Health in Pasay City on Wednesday. The color purple stands for women's rights.

Biggest catch of rare turtles

From page A1

police and enforcement group," Customs Deputy Commissioner for Enforcement Ricardo Sunaning told reporters yesterday.

It is not the first time authorities helped Customs officials spot the illegal shipment among the many huge cargoes that regularly enter the Muelle Port.

In 2010, five Malaysian nationals in Manila's South Harbor.

Turtles concealed in boxes

An initial joint inspection by Customs personnel and experts from the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) showed that the illegal shipment that left Catanduanes on April 29 contained "sea fans," a species of hard, stony corals belonging to the order "Antipatharia" or black coral.

But as Customs authorities continued its inventory yesterday, they discovered that the shipment also carried sea turtles wrapped in newspapers and concealed in boxes behind the stash of illegally harvested corals and sea shells.

The Bureau of Customs has set to complete its inspection/tax registration on the size counted at least 30 turtles, measuring between 8 and 33 inches. Many were still unpacked in a container van.

Consignee

The consignee of the shipment was identified as Ferdinand Serrano, who is now being investigated. He faces a criminal case for violating Republic Act No. 8550, or the Fisheries Code of 1998, said Sunaning.

The law prohibits any person or company, for its gather, possess, sell or export endangered species and unexpected corals whether in raw or in processed form. The penalties range from six months to two years in prison and a fine of as much as P500,000.

Sea turtles and black corals are among the species protected by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

Economic cost

The World Wildlife Fund has placed the economic cost over a 25-year period of destroying a kilometer of coral reef between $137,000 and $1.2 million.

"We are really thankful to those who called and led us to this discovery," said Customs police director Nonoto Gualberto.

Lawyer Ani Virtz, head of BFAR's regulatory and quarantine division, described the smuggling attempt as daring, since the contraband was shipped on a commercial ferry.

"But in the ordinary course of business, it's really hard to notice this amid the many cargoes aboard the ship," Virtz said.

Smuggled out to Europe or China?

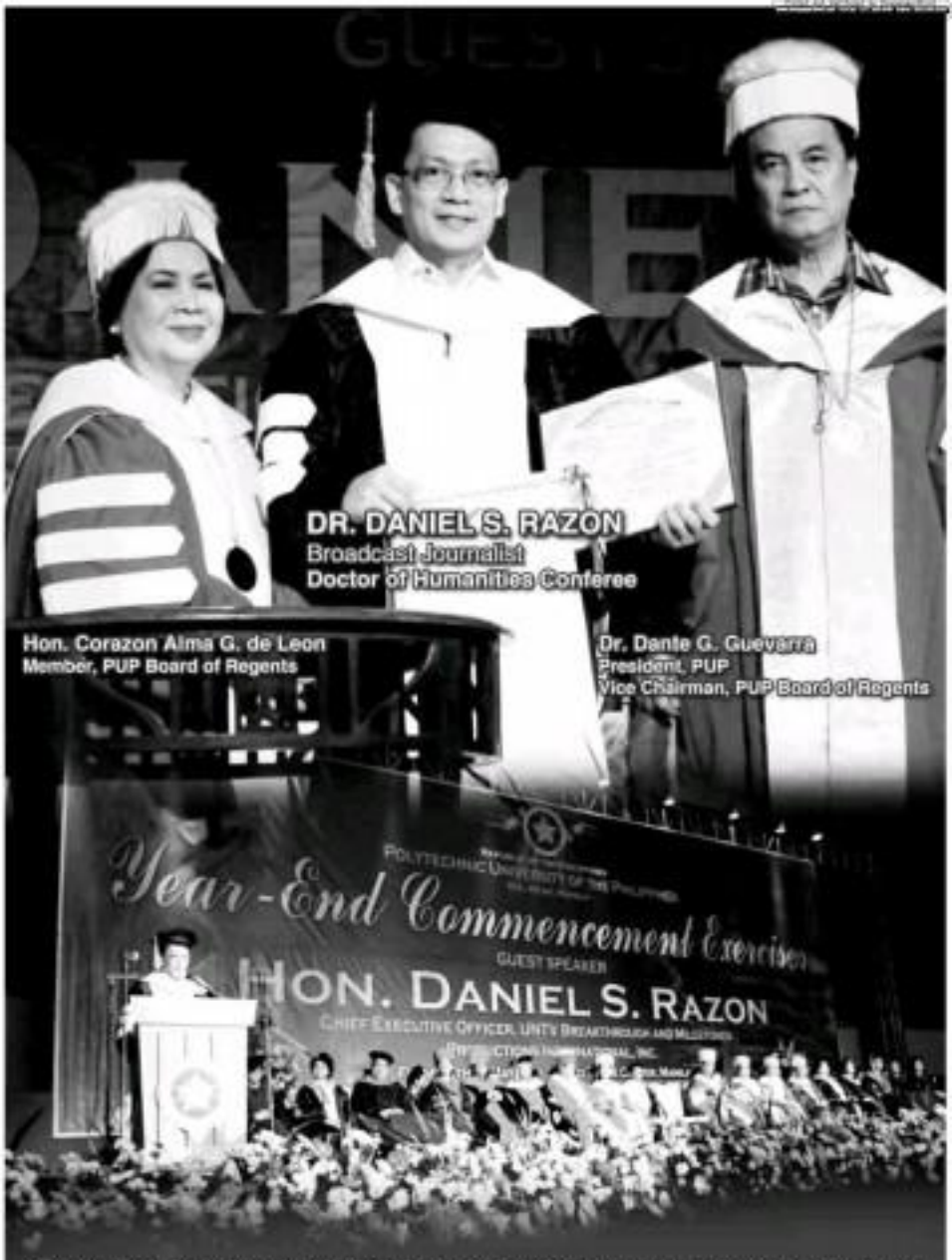
Gualberto stated that it was Customs's biggest catch so far involving black corals and other endangered marine species harvested from the country's rich waters.

Gualberto said that "a spot of departure" but the marine species may have been illegally harvested from the waters of Mangsee Island, located in the westernmost part of Palawan and near Sulu, said Gualberto.

The shipment may have been intended to be smuggled to Europe or China, he added.

The illegal trade in black corals "is being fueled by the demand of the multi-billion dollar marine ornamental industry for exotic decorative species and the increasing popularity of coral-accented jewelry and fashion accessories," Customs Commissioner Angelito Alvarez.

He warned smugglers that the bureau, under his watch, would strictly enforce Philippine laws and international agreements to protect marine species.



UNTV - Your Public Service Channel and Mr. Public Service, Mr. Daniel Razon, congratulate the Polytechnic University of the Philippines on its successful commencement exercises held on May 6, 2011 at the World Trade Center in Pasay City.

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UNTV also wishes to express its sincerest gratitude to the university for conferring to Mr. Daniel Razon the highest academic honorary degree of Doctor in Humanities, honoris causa, during its 2011 Commencement Exercises, not only for his excellence in broadcast journalism but also for his humanitarian efforts and advocacy for change which he carries out through television network UNTV.

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To God be the Glory!

INQUIRER

OPINION

Vacuumed justice

EDITORIAL

THE SANDIGANBAYAN'S May 9 resolution upholding the controversial plea bargain agreement that ex-military comptroller Carlos F. Garcia entered into with then Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez is a model of judicial obfuscation. As we can see for ourselves in both the language and the reasoning they used, the judges in the majority were so determined to willfully ignore the greater context and the legal preponderance of the loss that they ended up burrowing their head in the sand—and looking stupid.

While the resolution is attributed to the anti-graft court's Second Division, it was in fact a "Special Division of Five" that reached the unfortunate conclusion. Since the three-person Second Division was divided on the issues of the case, the Special Division was created to resolve the matter; it did, by a close 3-2 vote—and by the narrowest of judicial reasons.

Essentially, the resolution in the Garcia case removed no Garcia's compliance with the terms of the plea bargain agreement. About half of the resolution's 22 pages was used to list the various properties and bank accounts held by Garcia and members of his family. On Page 17 we read: "It therefore appears from the foregoing that the transfer in the name of the Republic of the Philippines of the assets and properties of accused Maj. Gen. Garcia subject of the Plea Bargaining Agreement, in the total amount of P135,435,387.86, had already been accomplished." Two pages later, we read: "Inasmuch as the provisions of the Plea Bargaining Agreement and the concerns of this Court about the protection of the Government have been already fully addressed, there is no reason why this Court should withhold approval of the Plea Bargaining Agreement in these cases."

In fact, there are several reasons why the plea bargain should not have been approved, and why the Sandiganbayan should reconsider its ruling. Compliance with the terms of the agreement cannot be the primary consideration, when the agreement is itself the issue at stake. The protection of the government cannot be understood in the narrowest terms of securing property and other assets; the highest purpose of the anti-graft court is to punish graftors and prevent corruption. How can a plea bargain that allows a money subject with hundreds of millions in unexplained wealth to keep half of it serve as both punishment and preventive measure?

Above all, in ignoring the greater context, the anti-graft court succeeded in making itself an accomplice of the corrupt. From the unusual circumstances of the plea bargain (struck only after an uncooperative special prosecutor retired), to the smoking-gun confession of Garcia's wife Clarita (the subject of apparently intense internal debate in the court), to the revelations disclosed in hearings at the Senate and the House of Representatives (including evidence from the Anti-Money Laundering Council showing that Garcia's wealth may have reached over P700 million), to the obvious discrepancy between Garcia's official income and his unexplained riches (the only instance when the law puts the burden of proof on the accused, not the accuser), there was an entire range of old and new evidence that the anti-graft court could have taken notice of, but chose not to see. President Aquino was only right to ask whether the judges lived in a vacuum.

One gauge of the resolution's strained reasoning is when it reiterated the court's earlier ruling that there was no need for the AFP to give its consent to the plea bargain, in part because "the blanket allegations in the information fail to indicate that the amount mentioned therein was purportedly taken from the AFE as in fact none from the said agency was listed therein as a witness." This is plainly ridiculous; the facts of the case show that much of the money involved came from suppliers' bribes. But while the funds did not necessarily come from the AFP, the bribes were made precisely because, at the time, Garcia was the AFP's comptroller. In other words, the abuse happened as a direct result of the office Garcia held; if we want the AFP to reform itself, surely it must have a say on how an officer who abused his office must be punished justice.

A once-secret plea bargain that allows Garcia to pocket over a hundred million pesos is many things, but it isn't justice.

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A turning point in Singapore

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

SINGAPORE HELD its general election last Saturday, May 7. But even before polling officially got underway, hardly anyone took notice. The outcome was a foregone conclusion. Pollsters are generally unconcerned in the political affairs of countries, except the United States. Singapore is also one country that most people do not associate with politics. After all, the city-state has been ruled by the same party, the People's Action Party, since it became self-governing in 1959. One cannot expect to find meaningful politics in a country like that.

But all contracts evolve. And, as we see unfolding all over the world, even the most rigidly ruled states look sooner or later change, if they are to survive and implosion. The problem of all authoritarian societies is the same: where people are unable to freely express their opinions, the feedback mechanism is blocked. Out of fear, citizens censor themselves, giving the impression that everything is all right. Leaders learn that opinions ever more timely, guided only by lies illusions.

Singapore is no exception. Despite regularly topping the highest economic growth rate in the world (14.5 percent) in 2010, its leaders could not escape the growing dissatisfaction among its citizen Singaporeans. Public housing has become more expensive, well beyond the reach of low-income groups. The limits on the growing foreign community, which now constitutes more than a third of the population, have driven rents out of the nation's jobs and limited health care. They are not persuaded by the argument that foreign workers contribute immensely to the nation's prosperity.

Globalization is certainly a factor. Young Singaporeans are heavy internet users. They are more connected to their generation and are aware of what is happening in the world. Despite government regulations that block websites deemed offensive, they find ways of expressing themselves on many issues facing their society.

Recognizing the importance of the political

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Myths about OFWs

OUTLOOK

Rigoberto Tiglao

FEARS IS just too much blowing-hair sensationalism over overseas Filipino workers, bordering on ridiculousness. They have been pounded relentlessly, in a manner they themselves would detest.

So, there are horror stories...runaways from cruel employers with no one to turn to in a strange land; pregnant women forced into prostitution...but we have to put things in perspective. We are talking here of a population of eight million OFWs, nearly as big as the population of Switzerland or Greece.

The reason for the depiction of OFWs as the downtrodden of the earth is that their alleged plight tugs our heartstrings. (MORE: here [and abroad] which got dramatic from European labor organizations at Christian do-gooder associations, purportedly in order to come to the rescue of these "slaves" of global capitalism. More often, though, the motivation merely is to get the OFWs to support "advocacies"; of NGO elites who often have never worked a regular private manager to enjoy the overdoses of overexploitation crises.

Well, after the campaign of OFWs opposed us so, the government has also been in a hurry to solve policies the really needed: not only to assist OFWs themselves, but to harness their income for national development.

Myth 1: "OFWs are our country's poor, the downtrodden, and they're all just fleeing to escape lands for greener pastures."

Well, they certainly make more than just-minimum wage earners. Take the case of Dubai, a country that's a relentless setting two millennia a week for this paper. OFWs' average salary based on crowd surveys by the Asian Development Bank and no corruption-driven from total remittances planned, is [the] $18,000 to $20,000 annually. Most others in the Philippines have no chance to the sun or disposable income since household and lodging are often free.

It remains to be seen to be offset by a colleague in Hong Kong's the suffering of OFWs nearly floored me. "The poor Filipina baby girl arrives in a foreign land and is soon snatched by her orange employer," or? Well, in the first place, a poor little girl doesn't have any business arriving alone and without any support group in an island in Australia, where she is as likely to be snatched by strange employers as anywhere in the globe.

Domestic employment, in fact, is closed to our persons, as the Philippines is to the world's refugees, for wealth abroad—and I mean all, even for right-life entertainment places, as for Subic in Israel. An Asian Development Bank survey in 2004 found that 58 percent of OFWs surveyed had seven or years in college, college degrees or even vocational skills or degrees, while 26 percent had gone only through high school.

In fact, the reasons there has been a massive migration of workers abroad is not because of superior poverty in our country, but because OFWs are skilled, literate and English-literate that there is a huge global demand for them.

Rather than the poorest, the typical OFW comes from the 1-1 class. They are our earning, and they are the ones who have the spunk to take up the adventure of working abroad, the adventure that they wanted to have a higher income to uplift their families' status. However, just as important is a social niche "the profit-and-to-discover of travelling abroad, the adventure.

One little-appreciated fact is our OFW phenomenon is that it represents the Filipino female's massive and liberating entry into the work force, as the feminist that American women really first got into the workforce in World War II. Where she has entailed risks to Filipino women—and the horror stories of OFWs indeed involves mainly domestic female workers...such risks have also emerged whenever females have left the protection of the home to work in a male-dominated world.

The characteristic of OFWs is their gumption, their willingness to take risks, as in going to a strange land to work, which—even illegally (but note: it's not illegal from OFWs—what is illegal is that the state is not allowed to work abroad. "Mahigpaingpatuloy ito." (That is a beautiful Filipino term with the root word meaning "law." "Mahigpaingpatuloy" is to not live, with the connotation of being held in doing so. The characteristic is the reason many returning OFWs have business leaders, even politicians, in their midst.

What's also admirable about OFWs is that while they live austere lives abroad, they send much of their income (averaging 60 percent, according to the ADB study) to their families back home, even when those already have considerable funds—as even if their children are already productive groups—age. The most common horror story about OFWs is how their children or spouses splurge their remittances on the latest cell phone model and designer clothes.

Myth 2: "OFWs are unskilled workers, and the typical OFW is a domestic helper exploited cruelly by the slaves."

That may be true in certain places like Hong Kong and Singapore, but it is not representative of the current mode of OFWs. Going data on the deployment of OFWs from 2008 to 2010, their main occupations are: production workers...36 percent; professional and white collar staff—20 percent; domestic workers and caregivers—19 percent.

"Production workers" are mostly skilled workers such as machinists, welders, carpenters, auto mechanics, crane and earth-moving equipment operators. Their average salary ranges from P46,000 to P60,000.

On the other hand, in North America and Northern Europe the percentage of an OFW is that of a nurse, engineer, architect, or teacher. In 2008, 6,000 nurses, engineers, hotel supervisors, nurses and medical technicians.

Of course domestic help and caregivers make up a significant percentage of OFWs, and in several Muslim countries, for instance, the percentage of a Filipina to enter a female domestic help or a male household maintenance man. That doesn't mean that they are poor or economically exploited. The standard wage for a domestic help in Greece, where I had been ambassador, was 900 euros (P55,000). An OFW doctor who became a good friend of mine earns enough so he is able to visit the Philippines twice a year and to have two real estates, one in San Francisco and another in Metro Manila.

To portray OFWs as our poorest, and even to weep for them as if they were wimps or refugees from a calamity, is a derogatory term and we must find another.

See several typical for archives of past columns, rigtiglao.inquirer.net/archive.php.

Pacquiao fighting poverty

HUMAN FACE

Mrs. Corres P. Dayo

IT WAS not his possession of strength, speed and his power that impressed me and gave me a human moment. It was what he said about the poorest Filipino in his life. And he was not referring to any of the common matches with fortunates qualities that brought him multiple world boxing belts and placed him to be among the world's richest athletes.

It was what Manny "Pacman" Pacquiao said at the press conference before last Sunday's Pacquiao-Mosley match (that he would win, of course) in Las Vegas. He declared that the greatest fight of his life was not in the ring but in fighting poverty in his beloved country. He said this in a simpler way, in English. I am paraphrasing.

I have no interest in the brutal sport of boxing per se, but what caught my attention was that he did have a opinion, the room it produces and what he symbolizes of them.

Pacquiao was not a stranger to poverty. Stories and tales from the life of poverty is all too familiar. But he was not from the slums. He started a professional sun against poverty even while his fame were more preoccupied with their fans and amazing man in countless viewing venues all over the globe. His personal fortune estimated last in the list of entertainers and sweepstakes.

But not entirely. He will not forget those raw sentences, already, we are told, Pacquiao is more interested to partner with Korean multiple whose business is in the field of entertainment and digital entertainment investments and direct industries have all over the world.

But I will not be surprised if Pacquiao would want to invest in the Philippines. I believe that he would be supposed not just by funds from being a congressman from Sarangani, but from the massive wealth that he has earned from his deal-breaking fights. And while he has survived them all, many of his enemies and opponents have fallen by the wayside. They might be hard to remember but could happen. Still who knows what those

pounding blows have wrought on his body over the years?

When he said his greatest fight would now be against poverty I knew his soul has not gone the way of his body. It is beginning to suffer wounds.

Pacquiao is not just the richest Filipino. I am Philippines, his franchise of millions does million to us, we are still ranked from his fights, product endorsements and pay per view revenues. What can one do with all this money to share some of it? How should we begin? Should we start giving it home other every money and his mother Dionisia his points. That means this here is home a lot of money goes around and shows to the humble never ravages Freeman bags costing millions of pesos and made from the skins of endangered species.

So how will Pacquiao wage my against poverty? His efforts thereto searching. Problem dozens has pledged P300 million for Pacquiao's hospital project in Sarangani but could serve the poor. But that's not the question to ask.

Many would be eager to know how Pacquiao and his anti-poverty advisers would create an anti-poverty program that is sustainable. Sustainability is a term in economic development that is now used as the keyword. It's a huge evening word even for me who expects that...a Hoover word that just millions would rather learn a substitute for the there is no substitute for sustainability.

Philippine poverty is unsustainable as "the capacity to endure, to endure the work doctrine how because of reasons sustain diverse and productive over time. Long-lived and healthy economic and human and ecological systems. Ecological systems for humans, sustainability is the potential for long-term maintenance of well being, which has environmental, economic and social dimensions."

And so there is sustainable agriculture, sustainable ecology and sustainable development. The most often quoted definition of sustainable development is development that "meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

The translation in Filipino that got the most votes in Ateneo Answers is "magpapatuloy ang unlad o makabuluhang pag-unlad." (In unli, just unlad o makabuluhang pag-unlad." (In unli, just unlad o makabuluhang pag-unlad." (In unli, just

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Leonard Co's last forest trip

LETTERS

LAST APRIL 28, 2011, Leonard L. Co was finally granted his wish that his ashes be scattered in Palanan, Isabela. The day started with a Holy Mass celebrated by fr. Edwin Peter Inocencio, OPM of the St. Mary Magdalene Parish. Where Leonard was in Palanan, he would associate the first holy Mass at 5 a.m. and host had breakfast with Father Dionisio. Most of us were surprised at this since we knew Leonard was not a churchgoer. Father Dionisio said it might be because of his bonding or his coffee.

About a hundred people attended the Holy Mass, most of whom knew Leonard...his co-workers, the store owners, the owner of the house where Leonard slept, the pastor, etc. The church was filled with hues bearing different sayings.

In his homily, Father Dionisio said that Leonard had great admiration for St. Francis, who was a nature lover. The priest also saw in Leonard a certain greatness, as character found in God's believers. He also deeply felt about what a non-violent person such as Leonard should die a violent and senseless death.

After the concluding prayers, a eulogy was held with family and friends talking of Leonard. The former mayor of Palanan, Mayor Montreal Bernardo, also shared memories as an adopted son of Palanan. Omar Lopez described his relationship with Leonard since the late 1990s, when he (Lopez) was in the Board of Trustees of Conservation International. Two of Leonard's co-workers, Reynaldo Peña and Danny Jaggi also spoke of the goodness of Leonard and their time together. Len Bagnajo described who was Leonard. Lily De Asis is, the youngest sister of Leonard, lovingly described her days as the main crowd by their father in a Chinese family. She told of how close parents were coping with Leonard's death and their decision to use the Philippine Army and how they were doing everything to ease funds for the Junior for Leonard Fund. She also thanked the people who were instrumental in the safe entering arena. Finally Glenda Co, Leonard's wife read a message thanking all those who came to his. All leonard's wife and also spoke of how she and their daughter were affected by the loss of a loved one.

After the Holy Mass, the people rode in vehicles to bring the ashes to the Palanan freshwater plain. But the actual site is a one-and-a-half hours walk—first in a grassland area, then to forest trail.

The ashes were spread in a site chosen by Leonard. It was surrounded by beautiful and grand Dipterocarp trees. Father Dionisio said the final prayers, and the choir sang while Glenda, Lane Mae, Lily and Liam walked around and spread the ashes. It was 1 o'clock in the afternoon.

In the station site where Leonard stayed whenever he was in the town, a cover marker with a plaque was put together by the people of Palanan, led by Mayor Bernardo. It was blessed and unveiled later. The plaque states that the Palanan Plot is now known as the "Leonard L. Co Plot."

—ELENA MERCEDES-BAZILIO,
professor of biology
University of the Philippines Manila

Story on Osama's death didn't deserve top space

I HAVE been a follower of the famous, historical daily newspaper Philippine Daily Inquirer since the Rilad days. It has been a source of information and pride for me and many Filipinos. It is the way it carries the banner of Filipino journalists, taking to bat with integrity and liberation, the Inquirer is like a beacon in a dark sea guiding the seafarer to distant shores.

But last May 6, we were a bit disturbed at the Inquirer's banner story, "FW slashes bonus on Osama," Inquirer, 5/6/11). It gave me the impression that the newspaper has lowered its standards. That its loss limits or lack out limits on Filipino idealism, but there was simply no justification for choosing that report as a banner story. We have no other word for this decision but to say that the Inquirer's

One of my colleagues saw the headline as sensational. Both of us are of the view that there were other stories more deserving of that space. And we believe the Inquirer used the story not to reveal the intentions of our brothers to glorify the mini-Osama his Laden but to ... (please supply the words because, I'm sorry, I can't find enough justification for the story's choice as a banner story, leaving in mind people, human beings leaping out of the burning World Trade Center and the thousands of other people who died in the 9/11 attack. Forgive me, but I can't see any reason for the Inquirer to give close report such prominence.)

I still believe the Philippine Daily Inquirer can do better. It has to re-adapt its high standards and ideals—for the sake of Philippine journalism and the Filipino people, and for posterity.

—RUFINO L. JACINTO, jacrlino@gmail.com

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Guests are invited to visit the UST Museum. Registration and Cocktails will start at 4:30pm. Holy Eucharist Celebration at 5:30pm and Testimonial in honor of newly appointed Sandiganbayan Justice Oscar C. Herrera, Jr. will immediately follow.

The UST Faculty of Civil Law will also honor Thomasian alumni in the fields of Public Service and Private Practice on July 22, 2011 and September 23, 2011, respectively.

LP's fellowship night a virtual 'Losers' Ball'

From page A1

(Of 8 elections. The quietly heartwarming moment [was] not for those, according to a congressional and Liberal Party member who spoke on condition of anonymity for lack of authority to speak about it openly.

"I haven't seen Baloy that full since the (Of 8 campaign) season. The place was packed, especially with (strong LP lads," the source said yesterday.

Baloy is the Liberal Party headquarters in Cubao, Quezon City. It is owned by party chair and former Senator Mar Roxas, who lost the vice presidency to Jejomar Binay.

Roxas' election protest against Binay is still pending at the Presidential Electoral Tribunal.

The source said Limpayag (former Cham Jarkeloni in Cotabato) Rono Villa (who lost to Bello), Filimon Flayan (who lost in Mandaluyong), and Boric Ricarte, a defeated senatorial candidate, were among the defeated party members present at the fellowship night.

Roxas is expected to be appointed by President Aquino's chief of staff, Jesse Robredo (along with Robredo for the environment portfolio, while Roy is being pushed by party members as the new Ombudsman, to succeed the resigned Merceditas Gutierrez.

The other bigwigs at the event, aren't from Mr. Aquino, were his political adviser Florencio Abad, party leaders Senators Franklin Drilon and Francis Pangilinan, Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim, Agriculture Secretary Proceso Alcala and Budget Secretary Florencio Abad Jr., the source said.

Ready and willing

Reached on the phone by the Inquirer, Roxas said it would be better to wait for Malacañang to announce her appointment.

"It's not to (me) to say," he said, adding in Filipino: "You really to help when and when the President assigns me."

Roxas said that at the fellowship night, he and Mr. Aquino only got to talk about party matters, including the legislative agenda of Congress before it adjourns in the first week of June.

The President announced in Jakarta last week that Roxas would "in effect" serve as his chief of staff.

From earlier, Roxas, as Mr. Aquino's chief troubleshooter, had been performing a variety of tasks, including flying to Taiwan two months ago to smooth ruffled feathers over Manila's opposition of a number of Taiwanese to mainland China.

Also in Jakarta, Mr. Aquino said he was "happy" with his Cabinet picks. "Why should there be a revamp? Who will change?" he said.

He did say that there were two Cabinet members still in acting capacity—a reference to Cabinet Secretary Ramon Paje and Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo—but added that he was reluctant to let them go.

Smear campaign

"I have to talk to the officials who were expecting to get (out of) those two portfolios," he said.

Zubiri gives unsolicited advice to P-Noy

By TJ Burgonio

MITSU President Aquino's appointment impending appointment of allies to the Cabinet, then Juan Miguel Zubiri (senator) challenged him to "eradicate" terms picking personalities during party and campaign (that got in one's).

In a privilege speech, Zubiri urged Mr. Aquino to stick to his "daang matuwid" (straight path) campaign slogan when appointing new members of the Cabinet.

"I humbly beseech this administration to continue emphasis in the discharge of its appointing powers and consequently, appoint only individuals of proven competence, unsullied integrity and incontrovertible honesty to fill vacancies in the various positions in the executive and judicial branches and constitutional offices," the senator said on the floor.

His deputies allies, Senators Serge Osmeña III, Francis Escudero and Franklin Drilon rose to interpellate Zubiri.

Responding to their interpellations, Zubiri said he was referring to former Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor, candidate Nereus Acosta, who is facing graft charges before the Sandiganbayan over the alleged diversion of his party-list to a battalion led by family members and a respected, fully being groomed to replace Environment Secretary Ramon Paje.

"This is not political. This is not personal. I would like to ask this as a statement for those coming in," Zubiri said. "Ask appeal to the President that he not accept people with pending cases in court."

But Drilon argued that Zubiri could not object to an appointment that had yet to be made, and that the Commission on Appointments should not be constrained from considering an appointee facing charges in court.

A Palace insider said the President appeared to have been talking about Acosta and the environment portfolio.

"There are (some) concerns in the Palace" regarding Acosta's "competence (capability," said this insider, who asked not to be named because of the delicate nature of the subject.

"He is more of an academician than a bureaucrat," the insider said, adding that old charges raised against Acosta in the Sandiganbayan had never been mentioned as a concern.

The insider said there had been talk in the Liberal Party that Acosta "may not be appointed, after all." Still, the insider said, "he's not yet ruled out of consideration."

Acosta himself said reporters a statement saying that "(I will) not accept (the) campaign" over his being tagged against him "because I am being considered by President Aquino for the environment portfolio."

He was referring to left-wing newspapers who calling on the President to reconsider appointing the former lawmaker because of four cases filed against him in the Sandiganbayan in connection with the release of P10.5 million from his pork barrel to organizations allegedly organized and managed by his relatives.

In his statement, Acosta said many officials also had pending cases in the courts, "but a pending case is not an indication of guilt."

He said he had told the President that he would "clean up the well-placed Mafia groups" in the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and that "they must be afraid of the cleanup I intend to do."

No changes

Malacañang reiterated yesterday Mr. Aquino's statement that there would be no changes in the Cabinet.

But that's with the exception of Roxas who, according to Mr. Aquino's spokesperson Edwin Lacierda, is "definitely" coming on board.

Lacierda said an administrative order was now being prepared by the Presidential Management Staff that would spell out Roxas' duties.

Both Communications Secretary Ricky Carandang and Mr. Aquino's deputy spokesperson Abigail Valte told reporters that "prospective appointees" should await the Palace's announcement.

"I think it would be easier if people just wait for the President to make the announcement rather than talk publicly about certain things," Carandang told reporters.

Valte said talk that some losers in the last elections would now be appointed was "speculative" at this time.

"Let me go back to the fact that the President said that he is happy with his Cabinet, and that almost all of those positions that are current are now filled," Valte said.

Unity or discord?

House Minority Leader Edcel Lagman said Roxas' appointment to a position in the Cabinet was well within the powers of the President, and that Vice President Binay should not take it against Mr. Aquino.

"It is completely within (the President's) domain or discretion, but I think that position could create more discord in the Office of the President," Lagman said in a press conference.

"The appointment really is subalter (Filipino) appointment will enhance unity or continue to promote discord in the Palace. That's the only thing. I'm asking a question. I'm not asserting a fact," he said. *With a report from Cynthia D. Balana*

23,000 frenzied fans pack Justin Bieber's concert

From page A1

his debut record "My World."

On yearning tour

Segueing to the next number, "Eenie," Bieber showed some signs of exhaustion from the long, winding (one year and (small) would wear: his voice was strained in parts and his dance moves were a little less than nimble.

But a change of pace in the Motown-inspired "U Smile" illustrated that his repertoire, mostly of the light pop variety, also spoke of an R&B edge. By this time, it had become apparent that Bieber was getting solid vocal support from his brilliant Filipino-American backup singers, Lopez.

Composed of Chris Aloni, Debbi Linton, Dominic Manuel and Nikah Valentine, Lopez sang a medley. Their vocals added vinyl-textured power to Bieber's—especially during vocal contests when Bieber had to vocal help breath.

There were two instances, though, when Bieber displayed multiple talents—he played an acoustic guitar (he is left-handed) and, later, the drums.

Approaching adulthood

As he sang "Never Let You Go" and a cover of Edwin McCain's "I'll Be," accompanying himself and with another guitarist, it seemed that the problem with Bieber's words might have something to do with approaching adulthood. At 17, his pipes could be adjusting—the same explanation to the fact that his idol, Michael Jackson, had to sing in a different tone at the time he recorded "Don't Stop in Your Life."

In any case, Bieber's teenage dreamboat appeal and his singer/ excellent pop hooks compensated for whatever shortcomings emerged during the show. His dancing (eight faves from saxophonist to "Somebody to Love," but his rendition of "(His Love Lonely Girl" rendered dramatic proportions when he picked a young female member of the audience to serenade, with a box of flowers in hand.

Amazing mastery

When Bieber formally introduced Lopez to a spot number, it was unmistakable that the singing quartet was gifted. Performing a cappella in a medley of pop hits, including Brandy's "Boy Soul Sister" and Bruno Mars' "Grenade," Lopez displayed an amazing mastery of harmony and accomplished techniques.

In succeeding numbers Bieber's energy perked up, to another octave. Jackson's "Wanna Be Starting Something" which segued into Aerosmith's "Walk This Way" he called back all performers to the stage for a dance showdown. Boricua and Bieber's own dancers, especially the lone Filipino, gave new meaning to elasticity.

When Bieber's turn came up, he chose to do Jackson's Moonwalk, though faster to tempo than that of its originator.

Best moments

The concert's best moments were the last two numbers. In "Eenie," Bieber opened he had soul and passion; in the encore, "Baby," he confidently took over the top party performed on the record by Ludacris.

He'd like to see the day when, after the distracting hysteria dies down, Bieber can feel like his own vision. "My music will grow as I grow older."

FILIPINO ALLEGIANCE Though showing a lot of roar and roar, Bieber's energy perked up in the latter part of the show (above and at right). He performed with Filipino-American dancers called Poreotics, and Lopez who provided additional support.

TRUE BELIEBERS Even toddlers on their parent's shoulders grooves to Justin Bieber's music during the concert in Pasay City, part of his yearlong concert tour which ends next month.

Is Justin Bieber a brat?

By Tina G. Santos

WAS (If you're a bad mood)?

Teens brandish Justin Bieber reportedly displayed rude behavior as he exited the country yesterday morning following a night concert at the SM Mall of Asia in Pasay City.

Some airport personnel and departing passengers expressed surprise when Bieber, passing through the departure area "back off."

As it so turns, the minister would, one of the singer's bodyguards echoed the words, but in a louder voice, while pointing to cameramen.

Bieber left aboard a Philippine Airlines flight bound for Hong Kong at around 10:10 a.m. His entourage was said to be due to leave the place.

But airport personnel said, the group had to change its original departure time after the singer's private jet was delayed for some hours.

Bieber left the country immigration just like all the other passengers, and were required to take off their shoes, submit to body frisking and walk through metal detectors.

INQUIRER Southern Luzon

Marinduque: A big classroom for nature study

By Gerald Gene R. Quendain
Boac, Marinduque

MARINDUQUE has everything that nature can provide, according to the founder of a seven-year-old volunteer youth organization which is encouraging travelers to make the heart-shaped island part of their summer agenda.

The attributes are many: Mount Malindig with endemic but sedate bird species; a majestic peak, many deep subterranean river within a cave guarded by pythons and 20-feet drop falls inside the cave.

"The province is a big classroom for environmental science teachers, students and researchers," says Dr. Carlos Sodusta, cofounder of Marinduque Youth Volunteers Corps (MYVC).

Travelers can also get acquainted with Moriones festivals, and the Barlaida and the Sarakadong Sarakadang, while dining on delicacies can get to see the exotic World War II ships at the Balanacan cove.

Youth volunteers

Sodusta, formerly the vice president for research and extension of Marinduque State College (MSC), and Cyrus Siloy, a former MSC instructor, founded the MYVC on Jan. 24, 2004. Both used to be members of the University of the Philippines' Diliman, a volunteer arm of the premier state university.

HOMETOWN *Snapshot*

Sodusta says visitors to Marinduque can learn hands-on about environmental protection from the grassroots efforts of ordinary folks like the Boac River Watch. He was referring to Marinduque Mining Corp., which accidentally spilled mine tailings into the Boac River in the worst environmental disaster that hit the Philippines in 1996.

The spillage flooded the river at the rate of 5-10 cubic meters (one truckload) per second. Total volume of discharge was pegged at 1.5 million to 3 million cu. m.

Green tourism

Aside from conducting coastal cleanup and campaigns promoting environment literacy, the MYVC has been holding computer and reading literacy programs, and value formation seminars.

Its long-term goal is to encourage the youth to make a difference in their communities. It has around 400 members in three school-based chapters: MSC-Boac, MSC-Santa Cruz and Santa Cruz Institute.

Francis Magalso, chapter president of MYVC-MSC, says the volunteers are advocating "green tourism," which also promotes immersion into local culture and lifestyle.

"It is not only about the tourist but also about all-out community participation, use of biodegradable materials, solid waste-compliant food service establishments with trained and environment-aware personnel," provincial tourism officer Gery Jamilla says.

MOUNTAIN MARVEL The majestic Mount Malindig in Buenavista town in Marinduque is a perfect place to trek, relax and be one with nature. (MALCOM GARMA)

Daily flights to boost island's tourism, trade

DOMESTIC flights to Marinduque are now daily.

Gery Jamilla, provincial tourism officer, is optimistic that daily flights by Zest Air, the only airline taking the Manila-Marinduque-Manila route, would further boost the local tourism industry. Zest Air used to fly four times a week.

"Daily flights will boost convenience and travelers travel for local and foreign tourists in and from the province. Easy travel access will accelerate tourist traffic," Jamilla said.

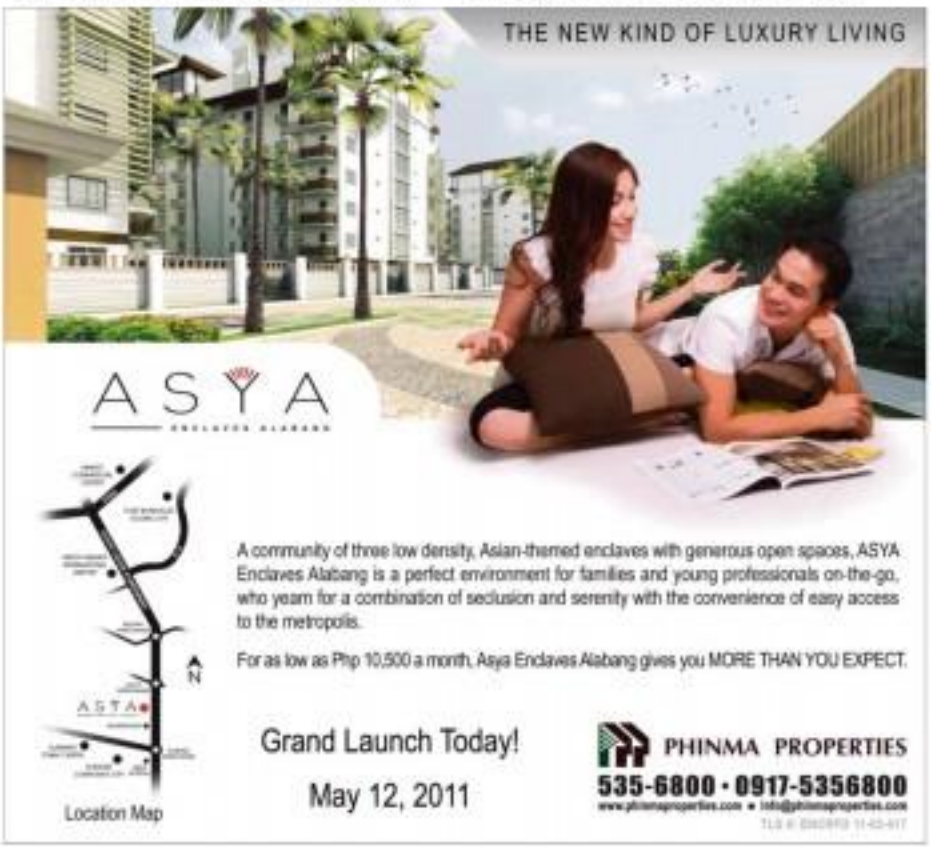
Land and sea travel to Marinduque via Lucena City in Quezon province usually takes 8-10 hours, while air travel from Manila takes only 50 minutes.

With the new flight schedule, a Chinese-made 50-seat MA-60 (MAW) airplane will depart from Manila at 7 a.m. and leave Marinduque at 9:20 a.m. every Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday.

The plane departs from Manila at 12:30 p.m. and leaves Marinduque at 1:40 p.m. every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

Carlito Fabalelis, trade provincial director, said local businessmen would greatly benefit from the daily flights. "The delivery of goods to and from the province will now be faster," he said.

The new schedule took effect on April 15, Holy Monday, to ease for the province's celebration of the Moriones Festival during the Holy Week. Gerald Gene R. Quendain



Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Across the NATION

2 Swedes guilty of human trafficking

Foreigners draw life sentence for use of kids in De Oro cybersex den

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—A court here sentenced to life imprisonment two Swedes who were arrested during a raid on a cybersex den in 2009 where children were being lured to pose nude and perform sexual acts for an online audience.

In a decision dated May 6, but obtained by reporters only yesterday, Judge Jeoffry Abcede convicted Bo Stefan Soderholm, 31, and Emil Andreas Solemo, 28, of trafficking in persons in violation of a 2003 law against human trafficking and sentenced them to life imprisonment.

Abcede, of the Regional Trial Court (branch 41) of Misamis Oriental, also ordered the two Swedes to pay a fine of P1 million each.

Filipina cohorts

In his decision, Abcede said the court "will not shirk from its duty to impose the most severe penalties against anybody, be he a foreign national or a citizen of this country, who transgresses upon the dignity of a woman by taking advantage of her vulnerability."

Three others, all Filipinos, were also found guilty of the same crime. Andrea Gaddiano Romero, Arvy Pablo Bayhon and Antonieta Lomanigoshi Kanging were sentenced to 20 years imprisonment each and ordered to pay a fine of P1 million each.

SWEDES Bo Stefan Soderholm and Emil Andreas Solemo cover their faces as they are escorted out of a court in Cagayan de Oro after a hearing in May 2009 about a month after their arrest for human trafficking on April 21, 2009. GERARD ALVAREZ/INQUIRER MINDANAO

Three others, identified as Abdul Barry Usman Imam, Yusuph Wanna Ir. and a third man, whose identity remains a mystery, were also sentenced in absentia.

Lilian Garcia, chair of the Bringa Movement, an umbrella organization of women and children's rights advocates, lauded the decision and branded it as a major victory in the campaign against sex predators.

"We are happy that the court delivered a sound and profound judgment based on the merits of the case and the evidence presented," Garcia said.

Bishop Felimon Yap Calang, of the Iglesia Filipina Independiente, called it a landmark decision. "Its force of women and children and against consumerism and commercialization and greed is the perfect."

He said the case should serve as a guide for other courts handling similar cases.

Preying on children

The two Swedes and their Filipino cohorts were arrested on April 21, 2009 by agents of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) in Northern Mindanao and the Cagayan de Oro City Police Office (Cidpo) in an afternoon raid on a cybersex den in a three-storey building in Barangay Kauswagan here.

Storing the said, authorities rescued 17 female minors and seized a host of sex toys and gadgets.

The minors were being used as nude models in an elaborate cybersex operation serving foreigners.

According to one of the minors rescued, they were paid P1,000 a month, in exchange for posing nude and performing sexual acts while chatting with clients using a webcam.

Portugal website

The foreigners' hosts for evidence, and three young girls through www.livepatrol.com, a pornographic site registered under Portuguese company Lalit Management and Investments, which gave its address in Rua Brigadeiro Gualter, Edifício Guedes, 2nd Floor-Room 211? P 9060-209 Funchal, Portugal.

The website, which charges its clients on a per minute basis, remained active in the Internet as of yesterday.

The two Swedes and the three other convicts, who are currently detained at the Lumbia City Jail, will be transferred either to the Davao Penal Colony or to the National Penitentiary in Muntinlupa to serve their sentences, court records said. —AB Jimena, Inquirer Mindanao

Gambling raid nets 6 in Rizal as firm cries harassment

By Marlon Ramos

POLICE arrested in Rodriguez, Rizal six employees of a gaming firm under a franchise to operate jai-alai in a raid that the firm said was harassment instigated by illegal gambling operations.

Those arrested were Genevieve R. Nuñez, Ignacio A. Ignacio, Rosalio L. Aragon, Jose M. Mendoza, Henry G. Gabrillas and Erwin G. Castillo, all workers of Manila's Vista Gaming Corp (MVGC).

In a statement, MVGC said it planned to file a removal case for the arrests which it called illegal.

MVGC spokesman Raul Bautista said the firm, which has a franchise to operate jai-alai that was affirmed by the Court of Appeals, and the firm's lawyers are now studying the filing of a case over the arrests.

Minister Secretary Jesse Robredo, who announced the arrests, said the Rodriguez raid was aimed at illegal gambling hubs and that both Small Town Lottery (STL) and jai-alai were being cited.

"This supposed our belief that jai-alai and STL were just legal covers of illegal gambling," Robredo told the media.

MVGC, however, said in its statement that a certain Bautista and his men, operator of the illegal numbers racket jueteng in Rizal, are the ones behind the arrests.

Robredo said operations of the Office of the Special Investigator, a police unit under his jurisdiction, raided the MVGC office in Barangay San Jose, Rodriguez on Sunday and made the arrests.

He said, however, that the raid was not aimed at putting a stop to the operations of MVGC.

"We're only after persons who are using legal fronts for their unlawful businesses," he said.

"Robredo here is all a question of technology nowadays. Technology has changed the layout of the gaming industry," MVGC said in a statement.

Sept. Wilfredo Bonillos, OIC chief, said seized in the Rodriguez raid were pieces of paper used to take bets, computers used bets worth P15,000.

MVGC, however, said in its statement that some of the pieces of evidence in the raid were planted.

Bonillos said the suspects admitted using mobile phones in nonetheless but collusion in Rodriguez.

Robredo said he case no need to require an explanation from MVGC but he would suggest that the firm "also do its own investigation about their employees who would be using the gaming firm to screw up their illegal gambling operations."

On Facebook, nurses cry quietly for better deal

By Marisa Cinco
Inquirer Southern Luzon

POSTED not if you see the face of Florence Nightingale in the Facebook accounts of your online nurse friends.

A silent campaign is ongoing in the Internet to protest the exploitation and abuse of Filipino nurses by Philippine hospitals.

Florence Nightingale, considered the founder of modern nursing, has become a symbol of the campaign, dubbed "May 12 Movement." Nightingale was born on May 12, 1820, a day that has been declared as International Nurses Day since 1965.

Jeff Bares, registered nurse and lecturer in nursing review centers, said not many nurses are aware of May 12 being International Nurses Day. He said many others are gripped by apathy toward the current working conditions of Filipino nurses.

On May 1, Bares and some Pinanse friends, 22, from Bilang Castle, launched a Facebook page, "Stop the Exploitation of Filipino Nurses," creating a buzz in the online community of Filipino nurses.

Friends, who topped the nursing board exams in December 2010, said also, too, in promoting unfair labor practices in the nursing profession.

'Feeling custom bulls'

"Nurses are overworked but underpaid. Or worse, they have to pay just to get themselves overworked," Bares said.

He said currently, a nurse earns an average monthly salary of P8,000-P9,000 when a nurse's salary should be at least P15,000-P20,000 as mandated by law. In some private hospitals in Mindanao, a chief nurse earns only about P4,500 a month.

"In other countries, the birth of a nurse is patterns is 1:6. But here, it's 1:30. They are overworked," Bares said.

But a low salary is better than not getting paid at all. Despite, when the nurse has to burn his own pocket for a three-month training program that hospitals require for employment. The practice is referred to as "volunteerism for a fee" because the nurses are asked to pay training fees that range from P1,000 to P10,000.

Bares said paying for training should be justified "if they were for a specialty courses." "But they are not," he said.

"Nurses are often assigned to wards taking custom bulls or holding gauze. We are already taught these back in schools," said Bares.

Estrada said while hospital training is necessary, it ought to have become a practice of private hospital owners to employ nurses as "on-the-job trainees," instead of as regular employees, because it is cheaper for the hospitals.

"Hospitals are also now the ones earning from the nurses, rendering their free service. We don't need certificates of training, but certificates of employment," she said.

'Lonely Battle'

Estrada said the movement is in support of a resolution introduced by Sen. Pia Cayetano in 2010 to investigate "the alleged exploitative practice of some hospitals."

They are also getting in touch with several nursing groups, such as the Philippine Nursing Association and the Board of Nursing of the Professional Regulation Commission, to help abolish the voluntarism scheme.

"This is still something the nurses and we have a long way to go. [And] it is lonely battle when some nurses continue to be indifferent," Bares said.

He said with the online movement, they hoped more people would be aware of the exploitation of Filipino nurses in their own country.

GOVERNMENT Health workers picket in front of a government-run hospital in Quezon City to denounce their wages and benefits. A group nurses are carrying a cross to symbolize what the protesters said was the exploitation of nurses by private hospitals. JOAN BONDOC

MILF sub-state proposal sends jitters to non-Moros in Mindanao

DAMBANGA CITY—A proposal by Moro guerrillas to form a sub-state to end decades of sectarian rebellion in Mindanao is sending jitters to non-Muslim leaders who see it as a duplicate of a previous proposal that was junked by the Supreme Court for being unconstitutional.

Leaders of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), which is currently negotiating a peace agreement with the government, said non-Moros opposed to be sentimental that the proposed sub-state would be detrimental to them.

Mohagher Iqbal, MILF chief negotiator, said the feelings of non-Moros were made known when the MILF went around to consult people in Mindanao on its proposal for a peace deal.

Some people who attended the MILF presentation, Iqbal said, even went asking "absolute guarantees" that didn't deserve answers and were apparently thrown simply to irritate MILF leaders.

"It is worth condemning but we didn't yield to those efforts," said Iqbal.

Iqbal said while some are accusing the rebel group of resisting historical facts, they considered the outcome of the consultation encouraging.

But Independent Nelito Balo Isilon, head of the Zamboanga Chamber of Commerce and Industry Foundation Inc., said the MILF draft peace agreement was no different from the master solution of aggression and territorial domain (MoA-AD), which the Supreme Court junked for being unconstitutional.

Isilon said it was "something to be scared about."

Claretian Missionary Fr. Angel Calvo, head of Peace Advocates Zamboanga, said the peace process should be given a chance to reach its [illegible].

"The peace process in Mindanao has taken so long," he said, adding that MILF efforts to reach out to non-Moros were laudable.

Isilon, however, said the MILF was not consulting people but "simply telling information."

Iqbal said the consultations were important because it offered people the chance to air their views on the peace process.

"Dividing lines are becoming clearer, but still we urge everyone to take a stand, speak up, otherwise we will not settle anything," he said.

In a similar consultation in Pagadian City on Wednesday, the MILF also tried to appease Sultanate fear of losing their ancestral domain if the agreement as drafted by MILF was adopted.

Earlier, Sultanate leader Bimbaran Adil asked the MILF to exclude Sultanate constituencies from areas to be defined as Moro homeland.

Prof. Abhoud Syed Lingga, a member of the MILF peace panel, said Moros would respect individual and group rights once tribal lands. —Julie Alipala and Ryan Rosauro, Inquirer Mindanao

Editor Teodoro S. Maniaurel
Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Chiong

SPORTS

MAN Sangalang of San Sebastian reports a shot by Ateneo's Kirk Long. ALEXIS CORRAL

FilOil basketball: Stags clip Eagles' wings

SAN SEBASTIAN rallied from seven points down in the last two minutes to oust Ateneo, 73-72, yesterday and finish the UNAF championship tied four-all in the 89SD-Flying V Hanes Premium Premier Cup.

Gabriel Almeyra again led the way for the Stags by burning 22 points—including the deciding free throws with only 9.0 seconds remaining—and grabbing nine rebounds.

His bargaining sealed 17 and had nine rebounds, while Ronald Pascual also posted a double-double of 15 points and 14 boards in the Stags' third win in four games in Group B.

"The important thing in this game was our defense," said coach Boy Sabenorio after Jai Mago stroked the Blue Eagles' free-game winning streak. "It was really hard to beat a team that's well organized."

Its victim, Ateneo, was also 2-2 going into the game.

Mago finished with a 17-9 effort.

"I'm really surprised that he's been playing very well in consecutive games," Ateneo coach Leo Austria said of Mago, whose triples keyed the Makers' breakaway.

The Stags closed out the game with an 8-0 charge to the Blue's 69-72 deficit with 2:11 minutes left. Jun Antonio, the Stags' who dealt the first loss on erstwhile collegiate National University Head Guidance and Agnel Agustin vs. Aquino

SAN SEBASTIAN 73—Almeyra 22, Sangalang 17, Pascual 15, Nieto 8, Bautista 5, Dalisay 4, Del Rosario 2, Mendoza 0, Ong 0, Ilagan 0, Cruz 0, Nieto 0, Mendoza 0, Vitug 0, Sandoval 0.

ATENEO 72—Nieto 21, Long 18, Tolda 9, Nicolas 6, Austria 5, Gumabao 5, Gallaga 4, Ferguson 2, Gonzalez 2, Tiongco 0, Dario 0, Tolda 0.

Quarters: 17-17, 29-30, 50-47, 73-72

Special Game

NATIONAL U 75—Aquino 22, Tolentino 17, Cruz 8, Gabisan 7, Bienvenido 5, Gonzales 4, Dionisio 3, Ramos 3, Antonio 2, Sampang 2, Lazaro 2, Asuncion 0, Bon 0, Tibayan 0, Mendoza 0.

UP - DILIMAN 59—Capacio 17, 14, Ilo 12, Hamoy 7, Mojares 5, Cruz 5, Nemeno 4, Sison 3, Ramos 2, Nepa 2, Magalonzo 2, Tuazon 2, Dela Paz 1, Lapid 0, Mendoza 0, Ramos 0, Tuazon 0.

Quarters: 13-14, 28-32, 43-46, 59-61

Precision key as ICTSI PH Open tees off

By Mayang R. Castillo

DRIVERS WILL STAY in the bags longer than usual with the lengthened Black Mack East layout demanding precision and patience from the 2011 ICTSI Philippines Open field starting today.

With its fairways narrowed and its roughs grown to lengths that will punish errant tee shots, the $300,000 event could prove to be the most difficult in the Asian Tour's calendar to date.

A number of big guns even predict that anything near four-under par for four days will be enough to attract all.

"Four more today, but definitely a lot less in the tournament," Jonic Pagunsan said when asked how close he and his fellow during the Pro-Am event that he won with his team with eight-total birdies.

"I tried it in some holes today, but it could be different tomorrow (today in the first round)."

"On that kind of course, four-under should win it," Asian Tour regular Antonio Lascuña, one of several notables in the cinch Philippine contingent, said during the Pro-Am.

Angelo Que, the winner the last time the Open was held at the age-old layout in 2009, believes that the winning total this par-72 will be below his five-under 283 three years ago.

"This is not a scoring course," Que said.

Three players belonging to the Top 16 of the Asian Tour's Order of Merit are in the field, led by Bangladeshi No. 2 Siddikur, who tees off in the company of Que and Yuki Kishida in the 12:15 p.m. flight starting at hole No. 1.

The South African, Jbe Kruger is also entered even as Frankie Minoza resumes his quest to become only the fourth player ever to win the event three times in his career. Antonio Murakami is the defending champion.

DENNIS ORCOLLO takes careful aim in his match against American Max Eberle. (Story below) ROEL NIEVA

Ateneo, NU target last V-League finals slot

ATENEO disposes the last championship hurdle against National University in the Shakey's V-League today.

After forfeiting their Game 1 victory the Lady Eagles hope to keep their form against the Lady Bulldogs in the rubber match of their semifinal duel at 4 p.m. at the PhilSports Arena in Ayala Area.

Ateneo claimed the first title slot after outlasting University of St. La Salle Bacolod, 2-1, last Tuesday in the other best-of-three semifinal match.

The favored Lady Eagles could have similarly swept their next series after downing the Lady Bulldogs in straight sets, 25-14, 25-18, 25-20, in Game 2 after last Tuesday.

But hungry offbeats muffled the Lady Eagles' 20-17, 25-14, 25-10, 22-19 victory in the opener for fielding blues in reserve Sisi Rondina as regular played.

"We just have to keep our mindset and remain positive," said Ateneo coach Charo Soriano. *Jeannine M. Payo*

Orcollo, Alcano reach pool KO stage

By Mayang R. Castillo

MIA IMMOKEN, the defending champion, led the bunch in the knockout stages of the 2011 World 10-Ball championship yesterday after topping Filipino Ruben Gan, 9-5, at the World Trade Center.

Jeremy Jurado was the first Filipino to reach the last of top-64 players after a 9-2 crushing of American Max Eberle, in a later match.

After dropping three games in his opening match on Tuesday, Orcollo kept the American in his chase from the top until he took the lead before breaking-Orcollo in the ninth frame to allow Eberle to win two straight racks.

"I thought I could just relax," Orcollo said jokingly in Filipino. "I guess he (Eberle) just played bad today."

Dennis Alcano, the last Filipino to win a world crown on Philippine soil, had to escape through his second round match with 4h 982 ball-by-ball, prevailing, 9-6, after winning the final three racks.

Immonen, who won in 2009 at the expense of Filipino Lee Van Corteza, was never threatened in his match with Gan.

The confident Mexico won a toe-to-toe exchange with Ayer to keep alive his bid of becoming the world's first Triple Crown winners in the sport.

Alcano beat Jose De Weald, 8- and 9-ball-titles, giving him the extra motivation to win here and claim the $60,000 top prize.

Gems, Sumos eye q'final berth

GAMES TODAY (Rizal Memorial Gym)
7 p.m.—Café France vs. JJ Powerade
9 p.m.—Cignal Active vs. Blue Eagle

EDELWEISS LIFE CLUB and Blue Eagle Gym vie for an outright quarterfinal berth and a share of top spot in Group B of the PBA D-League Foundation Cup at 4 p.m. today at Trinity University.

Defenders Justice Desamparado and veteran Earl Clariño against all at 2 p.m.

Idle NLEX and JP Gilmore have already secured the first two semifinals quarterfinal slots in Group A.

Only the top two teams at the end of the classification phase will head straight to the quarterfinals while the next tangle in the first round of the playoffs.

Four teams are actually vying for the two quarterfinal berths in Group B.

"I expect a tough game against Cebuana," said Blue Eagle coach Dale Jasmines. "They have a tall lineup and they have a deep bench." *Jeannine M. Payo*

23 golds so far for Arafura swimmers

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE PHILIPPINE team swimmers bag 23 of the 25 gold medals handed in three days of the ongoing swimming competition in the 2011 Arafura Games in Darwin, Australia.

Jessie Sings Sings, Khan Antonius Palarca, Johannes Benedict Aguilar and Mel Anderson Lee led the country's team paggen in the week-long meet.

Hannah Dato and Monique Bacolod also recorded golden finishes in the girls' division to help improve the country's tally to 10 gold, 14 silver and nine bronze medals so far.

Continuous streak when Arafura swimmers decided that five swimmers from the Philippine Swimming League-Mikasa Prep School led by coach Jeanne Pepe and delegation head Nilda Crastinog can only compete as guests.

"Kasalan swimmers do not automatically get accredited to compete as Arafura Games; they through their association, must be members of this international swimming body," Mister Chito Coll, the tournament's general manager, said in an e-mail statement.

The PSL DPS group which had several swimmers topping their heats, is not affiliated with them.

All the Filipino medalists, though, were eligible as members of the Philippine Aquatics Sports Association (Disa), the national governing body accredited by Fina.

Tough Smart Gilas sked before Asian championship

By Jose Navarro

COACH JOSEL Tiatsoan has prepared a road map for the Smart Gilas national team's final push to the 35th Asia Championship.

After the 10th Asia Champions Cup from May 20 to June 5 at Philsports Arena, Tiatsoan said the Nationals will play in the Southeast Asian Basketball Association championships in Jakarta on June 22 to 26 where the three top finishers advance to the Asian championship.

Smart Gilas is expected to breeze through the tournament with host Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore fighting for the other two slots.

The Jumbo will formalize the Philippines' entry in the Asian championship on Sept. 11 to 23 in Wuhan, China with the champion climbing the host continental seat to the 2012 London Olympics.

Its line-up for the 191-foot after Jakarta is Lahoti, Pettigrid, on July 23 to 28 for warmup games organized by former Jordan coach Mario Palma.

Archer Merto, sprinter Rosales shine in Palaro

By Marc Anthony Reyes

DAPITAN CITY, ZAMBOANGA DEL Norte—Marie Crisabelle Merto of Central Visayas captured four archery golds even as Jenny Rose Rosales of Caraga won emerged as the fastest girl on the track in the 2011 Palarong Pambansa event today.

Merto, a 16-year-old junior at the Silliman University, prevailed in single (9-'D' (1,266 points) and the 30-arrow (347), 40th (326) and 50th (317) events at the Dapitan sports complex.

She also took the silver in the 60th event behind local girl Mendoye Dendoy of Region 9, who beat her for the crown (326-298) to snatch her first gold, one-silver output in San Jose, Iloilo, last year.

Hailing from Dumaguete, which has produced Olympians Mark Javier, Jennifer Chan and Jean Hosana, Merto is still on target for two more victories in Olympic standard individual and team event.

"I had a different type of training as I guess that and my hard work paid off," Merto told sportswriters after her triumphs which lifted her up for the Most Valuable Athlete award at the end of the week-long Palaro.

Over at the Jose Rizal Memorial State University track and field oval, the 16-year-old Rosales finally realized her dream when she nailed the girls' secondary 100-meter dash in 12.02 seconds.

"I really wanted to win because last year I only went home with a bronze and this is my last Palaro," said the shy and skinny Rosales, from San Juan, Batangas, in Filipino.

Already assured of a scholarship with University of the East through track and field legend Elma Muros-Posadas, she hopes to complete a sprint double when she runs in 200m-finals on Friday.

NO GHOSTS. ace pitcher for Jones's Mia Bautista (right), who was the pitcher the defending champion girls 800-meter by beating teammate and fellow-shotput Angelica de Jesus. MARC REYES

Silliman Olympic contestant Jessica Alfaro in athletics with five more golds even as Mores Manila swept the four team golds in badminton at the Dapitan City Gymnasium/Sports Center.

The PSY swimmer were Raymundo Jayne Penaranda in girls' secondary division (11-12) (1:29.71), Jasmin Nepo in elementary girls' javelin (15.79m), Ryder Ishu in elementary boys' 400m hurdles, Khalia de Ore in girls' secondary shot put (10.30m) and Hiro Cassellano in the girls' elementary 400-m hurdles (1:10.86).

In secondary division swimmers Mark Joseph Rodriguez of National Capital Region and Catherine Bondad of Calabarzon each captured four 800-gold medals.

Already with two golds tucked in her belt (200m freestyle and 200m medley relay) (1:20.71), Jasmin Nepo of Pablo City, second Dave meter medalists in the 200m individual medley (two minutes and 40.19 seconds), 100m free (1:05.42) and 400m medley relay (5:03.53) with Jeanette Nelson Mercurio, Joel Galay and Nepo.

Alfaro, a 15-year-old from Lucena City School of Mandaluyong, dominated the 100m-free in 59.49 seconds. He had three golds last Tuesday.

A P4,000 World 10-ball fee

EGYPT FOR a swindling of talent from PBA legend Fritz Gaston's overall appearance didn't really change much since he retired from the pro league more than 20 years ago.

Fritz still looked every inch an athlete in his prime when he met him at the Novotel lobby in Araneta Center, Quezon City, last week.

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

He still had the same physique that made him a dominant force in the league in the 1980s and early 1990s.

Fritz, who is usually dressed in a collared shirt, blue jeans and tennis sneakers when I bumped into him in the red aisle of the Araneta Coliseum during one of the games in the recently concluded PBA championship series, was wearing a basketball uniform. He said it was just the perfect get-up for his exercise routine that day.

The last time I had a talk with Fritz, we were both in Kaohsiung, Thailand for the Southeast Asian Games. Fritz was head coach of the Philippine national women's basketball team that brought home a bronze medal.

* * *

Over a cup of coffee at a nearby café, Fritz happily informed me that he is back in sports. About a week ago, he said he was approached by the Games and Amusements Board representatives. The office is Mohammad Ajeil Tamano, a lawyer.

"Ajeil is in charge of the agency's operations. I handle administration and finance. Director Generon replaced Eric Buhain as chief," Fritz informed me.

Suddenly, I had a flashback. I remembered getting an article in my e-mail a few days' back pertaining a requirement by GAB for all professional billiards players to secure a GAB license, just like the PBA players.

From what I understand, the members has been in existence for years, but the GAB has failed to actively implement it.

Fritz said the new GAB dispensation under the chairmanship of Generon, Tamano and Gaston has been tasked to enforce Presidential Decree 871, which states that it is unlawful for any entity "to conduct professional games without a permit from GAB."

The latest PD also requires pro players to secure a license from the GAB.

Fritz had double-time for his group could do it, to life's chore.

"We're only doing our job," said Fritz with confidence and optimism. He said the GAB had just signed a memorandum of agreement with the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation prohibiting any professional athlete or player from participating "in any form of professional tournaments/sports competition in the country unless he/she obtains the Special Study Permit (SSP) from the Bureau and the professional license from GAB. "

* * *

Last Monday, during the World 10-Ball Championship press conference hosted by Sports 5 which is airing the event live over the 15, no less Edwin Mabute, each pro Cuetist currently required since the GAB mandate.

And the local participants are said their 8-stones and the foreign players their SSP from the DFA?

Jim Mabalatong, president of Kinga Sports and Events, the outfit promoting the World 10-Ball Championship in Manila, didn't sound disturbed at all.

"It's a form of harassment," he said, practically abandoning the question. Whatever may be had to say wouldn't bear very well.

Bullets tried to garnered some prominent announcers to replace Gabe Norwood, but said that since earlier the August substitutions, but Makalintal would intervened. The imposition I got was he didn't think of the government agencies involved was highly. He said he would make an appearance thinking.

The billiards personality wasn't seen to no real breakdowns must be supporting that Paulo Pojan, who broke a stint billiards group, must be behind the suspected harassment.

Pdear told Makalintal do with the dons, sooner than will be solved, I over!

"I'll throw dons in the trash can," he replied candidly. I don't know if he's serious that there was a memo from GAB during the presence.

I wondered what Fritz would do.

The following morning, I got a call from him. He said Makalintal had sent a representative happy and ready to secure the required GAB permit for holding the event, but asked him to double the amount "under the counter." The local players' licenses and the two SSPs for foreigners will be the cost saved while the tournament is ongoing, according to Fritz.

And how much did the Fritz representative pay for the permit, I asked the GAB consultant.

"Four thousand pesos."

Not thousand pesos for all the world and Gary? I was thinking.

CHICAGO Bulls forward Carlos Boozer (left) celebrates the victory over the Atlanta Hawks with Derrick Rose. AP

Bulls take 3-2 lead vs Hawks

CHICAGO—The Chicago Bulls produced a stingy fourth quarter defensive effort to beat the Atlanta Hawks 99-83 on Tuesday, which gave them a 3-2 Eastern Conference semifinal series lead.

"We've prepared ourselves all season for moments like this. The playoffs are like this. They're hard-fought, a grind. We have to overcome things," said Chicago coach Tom Thibodeau. "We were able to get penetration and the ball in the paint. And I thought our rebounds in the second, 3rd, got the ball to the floor quicker. We hung tough and stayed together and got stops."

The Bulls held the Hawks to just 13 points in the fourth quarter to regain control of a game they had led for much of the first three quarters.

The teams exchanged the lead eight times over a stretch of 2:46 straddling the third and fourth quarters until league MVP Derrick Rose gave the Bulls the lead for good at 71-70 with a driving layup.

Chicago had led by as many as 11 points in the first quarter, but did not score a field goal over the final six minutes of the first half allowing Atlanta to tie the lead at 48-48.

Marbury in PBA?

Meanwhile, former NBA star Stephon Marbury could see action in the PBA if his camp approves a substantial pay out.

Word has it that Talk 'N Text will talk with Marbury's handler but talked is at least three teams, of bring the services of the explosive 6-foot-2 playmaker.

Marbury reportedly earned $60,000 a month with the Boston Celtics in the Chinese Basketball Association and the 34-year-old former high school phenom would have to agree to a humongous pay cut of $35,000 (the maximum salary of imports in the PBA, for negotiations to push through.

Reuters, *Jane Navarro*

Marquez accepts offer for Pacquiao rematch

By Roy Luarca

HOLLYWOOD—Mexican great Juan Manuel Marquez has accepted the offer of Top Rank to fight pound-for-pound king Manny Pacquiao on Nov. 12 at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.

Intl. chances are, Golden Boy Promotions, which has a lock on him, won't match the offer.

"He (Marquez) accepted the offer and he had his lawyer sent it to GBP Monday night," Top Rank chief honcho Bob Arum told Filipino sportswriters over the phone Tuesday.

Arum said that GBP has to match the offer, otherwise, it loses its hold on Marquez, who has been chasing a third fight with Pacquiao for three years now.

In their first meeting in 2009, Pacquiao knocked down Marquez three times in the third round, but had to settle for a draw after a judge scored the second seesaw.

They tangled again in 2008, with Pacquiao knocking down Marquez in the third round en route to a split decision victory.

According to Arum, if GBP fails to match the offer, a formal contract will be sent to Marquez and the fight will be formally announced.

Marquez did some revisions on Top Rank's original proposal, including the catch weight that was set at 144 lb.

Pacquiao's adviser, Mike Jerez, had earlier confirm that Team Pacquiao is reserve on a 145-lb catch weight.

MARQUEZ

No one's to blame except the cook?

BABE EYE

Revisit Revisited

THERE'S A lot of a welcome, another cried aware of salvation when a disappointed, if not totally disappointing, Jimmy Pacquiao returns home this weekend.

He will be back in the arms of fans who, although themselves disappointed, dumped all the money they earned in Las Vegas and agreed to change every thing to perfection.

It's not Manny's fault, in the first place, that the promised fight of the year slipped insanely into a stinking farce.

* * *

So the accompaniments of Bob Arum, Monday God rang in high heaven how he would spring an upset and smack the world.

No, Manny did not openly declare it, but his preflight brags were enough to make people believe he was capable of tripping not only Pacquiao but inescapable Father Time as well.

Bulmaro and agitate Manny indeed appeared like a sticking bomb in the first half—until he got decked by a blazing left hand late in the third round.

* * *

From thereon, Manny suddenly lost brain and instead wrestled desperately with inflicted hatred.

He also failed to reverse gear in order to avoid confrontation.

Manny lacked defensive moves and, as most only he expected, finished with his record of not being KO'd intact.

* * *

In the process, he also ended up with a frustrated expectations.

He never got called many worse names.

"He's an undisguised shame, dirt one and only Shane Mosley," cried a sharp-eyed cable television announcer.

Financially Mosley had to answer his hurt.

His mouthy explained he suddenly felt helpless upon realizing he was up against the best boxer in the world.

It couldn't be helped. Arum explained, because Pacquiao was just an incredible whirlwind of a fighter.

* * *

That was right after the horrible one-sided.

Then yesterday Arum started to change tune.

He said Mosley could have prevented the knee had he smacked and stopped.

Of course, that was impossible. Arum declared quickly, trying to take the blame from Mosley.

Pacquiao just happened to be man actually strong enough.

* * *

So who's to blame?

Mosley's cop?

Everybody is to blame except the cook?

He could be supposed, meantime Rogers were once pointed at Bob Arum.

There were, in fact, suppositions it could have been prearranged if not for very fat, scandalous financial factors.

"That Mosley boat was never a fight from Day 1," says champ-eyed columnist Silly Espino, a favorite social commentator.

"Everybody knew he was a 30-year-old has-been," he continues. "The only way Pacquiao could've lost was scoring the fight."

So who's to blame?

"This was pure highway robbery. Bob Arum should be made to account," Espino declares.

* * *

It was not a mere statement, but a painful parody inflicted on the gullible public.

There was senior citizen immaturity that bordered on delinquency.

"It was the worst decision ever," Dr. Teddy "Mommy Dearest" Casiño cut-out shout on sobriety.

This classmate cig takes the cake.

Jr. PBA: Vesagas powers Meralco

VESAGAS

GILBERT VESAGAS knocked in 17 points in defending champion Meralco-Quezon City in its second Manila-Mandaluyong, 116-114, semifinal in the 2011 Batang PBA Summer League at the San Juan gym.

Meralco held off Alaska in a single point in the second-and-third periods for the win.

In the previous game, Barangay Ginebra Cubaways also routed Sunkis Bell-San Pedro, 69-29, in Group B.

Luis Miguel Wilson, Carlos Sumrandos and Dan Mantuano led the Sunkis in scoring matters, combining for 24 markers in the first quarter to open a big 42-6 advantage on the way to their second straight win in Group B.

Jan Carl Simon scored 12 of his team-high 14 points in the opening period as Batang Kings soared to a 30-1 advantage over the Barangay Energy Boosters. Jomardain G. Darson

The Scores:

First Game:

QUEZON CITY (116)—Vesagas 17, Dela Cruz 15, Tenorio 15, Yerro 9, Gotladera 8, Lingat 7, Alpino 7, Cabrera 7, Bongcac 7, Ramos 2, Guevarra 2, San Diego 1, Lucero, Dayrit 0.

MANILA (114)—Ilustre 31, Ong 22, Fernando 15, Bartolo 13, Ramos 7, Perez 7, Bernal 5, Pinto 5, Robles 5, Lanuza, Ilao, Cruz, Lazaro 2, Mendoza 1, Lagare, Ong 1, Asi 1, Fernandez 2.

Quarters: (1st) 30-27; (2nd) 58-58; (3rd) 87-87; (4th) 116-114.

Second Game:

BARANGAY GINEBRA (69)—Wilson 14, Sumrandos 12, Simon 12, Mantuano 12, Gotladera 10, Ilustre 3, Mendoza 2, Lagare 1, Ong 1, Asi 1, Fernandez 2, Bongcac 1, Ramos 1.

SUNKIS BELL-SAN PEDRO (29)—Perez 8, A. Bartolo 6, Fernando 4, Bartolo 3, Ramos 2, Perez 2, Bernal 2, Pinto 2, Robles 2, Lanuza, Ilao, Cruz, Lazaro 1, Mendoza, Agustin, Lagare, Ong, Asi, Fernandez.

Quarters: (1st) 30-1; (2nd) 42-6; (3rd) 58-19; (4th) 69-29.

Second Game:

ALASKA-MANDAUE (83)—Rosales 19, Tuffin 15, Cahilig 13, Dario 9, Sangalang 7, Dela Cruz 6, Ramos 5, Ferrer 4, Ilagan 3, Ramirez 2, Tuffin, Sangalang, Dela Cruz, Rosales, Ilagan, Ramirez.

Quarters: (1st) 24-7; (2nd) 47-18; (3rd) 71-41; (4th) 83-69.

Athletes join UST fund-raiser

KOREAN TAEKWONDO athletes will help raise funds for a new alumni center as part of University of Santo Tomas' quadricentennial celebration.

Spearheaded by former UAAP record holder Mike Arcilla, the Taekwondo Alumni Association Philippines is aiming to raise funds for the construction of the alumni center to be erected in replace of the antiquated gym.

Former Varsity Eddie Palis, for his already donated P100,000 to get the ball rolling. Alumni association director Mike Matias and former UST volleyball skipper Mitzi Rivera attended the project launch.

An ambitious gathering that also have drawn up later this year with a chunk of the proceeds to go to the project.

Carmela C. Dapinoso

'Bullang' finals hosts 100 fights

NO LESS than 400 fighters are slated to finish a 16-bill Bullang Bullang Tournament—Kutitang Daria" championship round at the Araneta Coliseum.

The National Federation of Basketball Amateurs (NFBA) conducted the trials in a four-day elim (May 12, 13, 17 and 18) due to the big number of entries that ballooned to 1,001. A total 112 qualifiers, who have defeated three elim each, will see action on May 17 and May 18.

The winners stand to receive medals or guaranteed prize of P1 million. For details, visit the NFBA website, nfbaonline.com or call NFBA secretariat at (02) 7061691.

LEE Chong Wei will be the main attraction of the FDG Cup.

World No. 1 Lee joins FDG 'shuttle' tourney

TWO 1992 All England singles champion Lee Chong Wei will join FDG Cup 2011 Invitational Open and International Badminton Tournament slated July 1 and 2 at Powerhouse Badminton Center in Paseng Tuna, Makati City.

Lee who recently dominated the inaugural Indian Open Super Series has world-ranked his game experience in the two-day event.

Also confirming their attendance is fellow Malaysian Jason Ho-Yaw Sin, currently the world No. 4 in men's doubles with Koo Kien Keat Tan.

Tip for grabs is P300,000 purse to the men's doubles while the mixed doubles and women's doubles winners will get P100,000 and P50,000, respectively.

Registration is ongoing with fee pegged at P800 per player. For details, visit the event's website on bfpapi@yahoo.com.

Gerardo L. Bayuyuan

BY TOP CHOICE
By Ben Lauren LP

Race 1—Gay Lee - Gargantuan (3), Sarah's Comedy Act (1), Nero (4), Kayden Rose (5), Kingsbridge (2).

Race 2—Gem Boy - Tiger Tim (6), Sarah Sunshine (5), Perfect Moment (4), Tough Stretch (3).

Race 3—Gem Boy - Grand Parque Dancing Tight (6), Belvedere (5), Hot Shoot (3), My Lay (2), Wood (4).

Race 4—Jun Ros - Ray Sunday's Dream (2), Seven Jays (6), Kristen's Beauty (5), Sweetness Jane (3).

Race 5—Gay Lee - Lee the Lions (1), Gargantuan (3), Sarah's Comedy Act (2), Sweetness (5), Jun Ros (4).

Race 6—[illegible] - Sarah's Dream (2), Tough Stretch (5), Sweetness (1), Nero (3), Kingsbridge (4).

Race 7—Gay Lee - Grand Parque Dancing (3), Lee the Lions (1), Gargantuan (2), Sarah's Comedy Act (4), Kayden Rose (5).

Race 8—Gay Lee - Lee the Lions (1), Gargantuan (2), Sarah's Comedy Act (3), Sweetness (4), Jun Ros (5).

Race 9—[illegible] - Sarah's Dream (2), Tough Stretch (5), Sweetness (1), Nero (3), Kingsbridge (4).

Race 10—Gay Lee - Grand Parque Dancing (3), Lee the Lions (1), Gargantuan (2), Sarah's Comedy Act (4), Kayden Rose (5).

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Editor Abelardo S. Manalo

DID YOU KNOW

On May 12, 1902, President Emilio Aguinaldo signed Proclamation No. 28 which changed the country's Independence Day celebration from July 4 to June 12, the day in 1898 when Filipino revolutionaries declared Philippine independence from Spanish rule.
Enrico Quimbo, Inquirer Research

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3 hurt as Navotas residents hurl rocks to protest demolition of houses

By Kristine Felizze Marquez

TWO POLICEMEN and a government worker were hurt after a group of residents in Navotas City refuse to leave their shanties to make way for the construction of a drainage system, police said yesterday.

Police Superintendent Richard Villena, members of the city police, were struck in the face and hand, respectively, Saturday from a Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) worker.

Two men were arrested by the police after they were identified as the ones who instigated the throwing of stones at members of the demolition team.

Sir Bernard, 20, and Martin Bernal, 23, will be charged with physical injuries, according to desk officer PO2 Rendon Galamos.

A check showed that the two were not even residents of the area.

Most of the stone-throwers were people living on a huge lot on Est. 2, Lessgeon Street in Barangay San Roque which was struck by a fire earlier this year.

The blaze left 12 people dead and around 180 families homeless.

The city government started conducting clearing operations in the properly laid out area in preparation for housing the families that would accommodate the displaced fire victims.

"But we cannot proceed with the soil testing since there are still people in the area," Mayor John Rey Tiangco said in a phone interview.

He added that the previous clearing operations were generally peaceful.

3 Makati cops in boy's death charged

NCRPO chief relieves acting city police chief for not reporting shooting at once

By Pandayan P. Ombao and Mike Navalon

CHARGES were filed yesterday against the three policemen involved in Monday's shooting and killing of a 13-year-old boy in Makati City.

In the same case, the city's acting police chief was relieved of his post after he failed to report the shooting incident within 24 hours to higher-ranking officials.

Metropolitan Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) director Chief Supt. Nicanor Bartolome appointed Supt. Joanis Sumbeiwo to replace Supt. Elmer Leaños.

Leaños took over recently for Senior Supt. Prudencio Bautista, who is on leave for personal reasons.

"I am meeting all chiefs of police and station commanders to better do your job and inform immediately your superiors of any major incidents happening in your area of responsibility," Bartolome said.

At the same time, he urged the three Makati police officers involved in the shooting to come out of hiding.

SUSPECTS: (FROM LEFT) SERRANO, REYES AND APOSTOL

"We must strength to face the investigators and other authorities," Bartolome said, referring to Chief Insp. Arturo Serrano, Police Officer 3 (PO3) Ruben Reyes and PO3 Nicolas Aposto Jr.

The three were charged with murder yesterday at the city prosecutor's office by the Criminal Investigation and Detection of the Makati police.

According to Leaños, Serrano and his men were on patrol at 2:30 p.m. on Monday when they spotted 13-year-old Christian Ventura scavenging for metal scraps in a demolished building on the corner of Kamagong and Bagtikan streets in Makati City.

Leaños said Serrano's men were wearing shirts but one of them hit the boy in the back, killing him.

According to Petronio, administrative charges would also be filed against the three police officers.

Leaños, he ordered the Southern Police District to conduct a manhunt for Serrano and his men after they failed yet to report the work since Monday's shooting.

Petronio also gave the three up until noon yesterday to surrender to us as well.

Reyes, meanwhile, said that no one would be spared in their investigation into the boy's death.

"There will be no special treatment for our own men. We have assured the boy's family that we would have an upright investigation," he added.

PLAYING THE OLD-FASHIONED WAY

Before video games, there were "tandang piso" at which children try to topple a cleaning detergent. On Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City the game is still enjoyed among youngsters.

'I DID NOT DO ANYTHING ...'

Hostage-taker's kin says he's innocent

By Jaymee T. Gamil

SPOT GREGORIO Mendoza calmly signs a logbook at the Hall of Justice in Manila shortly after his arraignment on kidnapping charges over the hostage crisis that left eight Hong Kong tourists dead. NONOY LACZA

SPOT GREGORIO Mendoza, 55, was arrested by police on Monday for his alleged role in the August 23, 2010 hostage crisis that left eight Hong Kong tourists dead.

He was charged with eight counts of kidnapping with murder and 15 counts of serious illegal detention before the Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 14.

The presiding judge, Alfonso Ty Yuseco Jr., ordered a not guilty plea on his behalf.

The case, filed by the Department of Justice based on complaints from Manila Police District (MPD) director Rodolfo Magtibay, pointed to Mendoza as the principal perpetrator in the hostage-taking of a busload of Hong Kong tourists on Aug. 23, 2010.

In an interview after the arraignment, Gregorio said he opted not to enter a plea against the advice of his lawyer, Mitos Dominique Ramos. "We maintain that there is no probable cause to hold criminal proceedings against me," Gregorio said in Filipino.

Then, they filed charges against a dead person then they tagged me as his accomplice. I did not do anything [that would make me] an accessory to the crime," he told the Inquirer.

Gregorio was talking to reporters after he was arraigned before Judge Alfonso Ty Yuseco Jr. of Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 14 on charges of kidnapping with murder and serious illegal detention in connection with the August 2010 hostage crisis that left eight Hong Kong tourists dead.

"Those who were in authority like Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim [should] be held liable instead," he added. He also criticized the Task Force Investigation and Review Committee (IRC) for issuing reports even if its members had "no personal knowledge" of the investigations.

The IRC was tasked to review the incident and submit its recommendations on the actions to be taken against participants.

Chief Supt. Rudolfo Salvador, deputy chief of the MPD Legal Office, meanwhile, stood firm that when Gregorio was brought in to help with hostage negotiations, he did things that showed the hostage-taker, Rolando, in what was happening outside the bus.

"Gregorio was calling [his brother] and describing what was happening outside," Salvador said.

Department of Justice Assistant State Prosecutor Nonna M. Bacoli, also in a resolution ordering the filing of the charges against the 55-year-old, said Gregorio "caused the negotiations to collapse" when he caused a scene which was aired live on television. It emerged his brother who started shooting the hostages.

Salvador said had taken the hostage-taker in protest his dismissal from the service due to attendant allegations.

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One for you, one for you and one for me

THE SANDIGANBAYAN Association approving the controversial plea bargain between former military comptroller Carlos Garcia and the Office of the Ombudsman over Garcia's P303-million plunder case shocked everyone.

Everybody thought—well, those who still believed in the country's justice system—that the midnight court was beyond you.

The Ombudsman's special prosecutor doubted the plea bargain agreement which Justice Amadoval and his fellow justices approved recently.

Those stupid cops in customs, Tarlac province who rattened a frivolous robbery complaint against the management of Isham, a huge restaurant complex in the town, got back at the owner whom they suspected of complaining to me.

On April 16, the complaint cited the robbery complaint of Reginald Limbon, an Isham customer, who lost some items inside his car he left in the restaurant's parking lot.

Perhaps the management could be liable for the loss in a civil case, but not in a criminal case.

No way!

The cops accepted the criminal complaint and filed it in the Tarlac Prosecutor's Office.

Could it be because they probably wanted to get back at the management for not giving them the privilege of eating in the restaurant for free?

Just thinking aloud.

The prosecution was reported to have said in a voice loud enough for the respondents to hear: "Idiots na nga sa, ako pa ang gusto nila sa Gen's dismiss-this-case?"

Now, if this prosecutor wants to dismiss the case, why did he have to say it out loud?

What was he trying to drive at?

* * *

To my fellow sports aficionados:

The 36th Ramon Bello Cup international shootfest will be held at the Quezon City Police firing range of Camp Karingal on Saturday and Sunday.

As usual, proceeds of the competition will go to the Ramon Bello, Raul Sanvictores Foundation.

The foundation conducts medical missions, gives scholarships to bright but poor students and helps disaster victims and the oppressed.

The competition was organized by Manila Bello Pistol Sports Club (MBPSC) Inc. under its president, Gerry Lazaro.

METROBRIEFS

Game machines seized

"DIRTY Harry" is cracking down on illegal gambling—literally. To dramatize the city government's ongoing campaign against the illegal vice, Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim took a mallet the other day and led in the smashing of 10 confiscated "video-karera" machines at the Bonifacio Shrine in the city hall. The machines, which feature a virtual horse race that players can bet on, were seized in joint operations conducted by the Manila police and the city's Public Order and Safety Department. A total of the video game machines were confiscated in Tondo, Sta. Cruz, Paco and Sta. Ana, according to city social welfare head Jay de la Fuente. "Most of the players we caught during these operations were minors. We brought them back to their parents," he said.

Jaymar T. Cassi

WHAT SIGN!
Two men wait for a chance to cross Roxas Boulevard in Pasay-Quezon City next to a signboard that warns people that a person had died trying to cross the busy thoroughfare. ALVIN

Int'l HR fact-finding mission to look into Makati demolition

By Penelope Endoso

AN INTERNATIONAL human rights group has sent a representative to the country to look into possible violations committed by the local government of Makati City against informal settlers evicted from the fire-damaged Laperal Compound two weeks after a clash between residents and police took place.

Ben Batchelor, the legal officer of the Center on Housing Rights and Evictions (Cohre) based in Geneva, Switzerland, went to Laperal Compound yesterday to initiate a weeklong fact-finding mission to find out on how the local government dealt with the situation.

Cohre said people are forcibly relocated to areas where they have no access to education and livelihood. "Our tendency is for them to come back to slum areas," said Batchelor.

He cited that the Philippines is obligated to follow Article 9 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, that guarantees victims of adequate housing and resettlement to accredited housing schemes.

Batchelor said he would propose to Makati government officials that the settlers be relocated within the city, adding that he was scheduled to find out how the settlers were being in the places where they were transferred.

"(Makati) is one of the richest cities in the country. Why can't they give the victims a relocation site in the city?" he said.

Batchelor cited the violence that marred the clearing operations on April 26 and April 27.

The Swiss-based organization, in a statement, condemned the acts of violence especially against women and children as the height of the demolition operations.

Mayor Erwin Elmay, for his part, said he welcomes any third party report on the issue. The city council has allocated a budget of P20 million in financial assistance and relocation efforts to eligible beneficiaries in the provinces of Laguna, Bicolandi Bicol.

"We're ready to face any investigation. We are not afraid of anything," he said. "We are more than happy to face anyone."

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Greenhills

QC repair shop gives new life to old cars

By Hans Joshua Sicam
Contributor

ERIC RIZARD hits eye-catching 1972 Mazda, a decades-old classic car, dillard Perera stares another fenny day, driving from his home on Second Ballot Street to his shop on Ka. mening Road in Quezon City.

Perera, 38, is the owner of Alfred's Motor Works, known for turning back to life vintage vehicles.

His collection of classic rides—from pre-war padanera to a 1960 Chevy—has turned his shop at the corner of Kamuning Road and 11th Ambross Street into a virtual tourist attraction in Quezon City.

"We're quite used to passersby-turned-potential clients who are delighted by our old cars," said Perera who started the business in 1993.

Wheel rims line the walls of the shop like Christmas lanterns, along with pedal toy cars from the 1950s and other "unconventional" stuff.

The shop's most popular display, however, are Perera's vintage Beetles and pre-martial law Ford Mustangs and Chevrolets, including a 1958 Chevrolet pickup with a wooden chassis.

Perera buys old cars, tweaks them his way and sells them to car lovers. He also accepts restoration jobs from owners of vintage vehicles. A 1947 White Truck in the oldest vehicle he has worked on.

The rest depends on the car's condition and the work that needs to be done; some jungs from buff-a million pesos or more for a full blown-up.

His clients are quite meticulous, if not sentimental, and include those his celebrities like Ruby Dimes, Jackie Lou Blanco, Alma Moreno, Hannah Sotiroula and Maverick Arena.

Even the government has commissioned him to restore some historical cars, including vehicles used by former presidents like Manuel Quezon's 1937 Cloudey, Jose Laurel's 1947 Packard, Elpidio Quirino's 1953 Chrysler Imperial and Cadillacs owned by Manuel Roxas and Amerhan general Douglas MacArthur.

While many cars come and go from his shop, Perera, himself an avid car classicist, also owns several, his favorite being a 1946 Buick named Bibi.

"Personally, I'm much happier and excited to drive the older ones than the new models," he said.

When it comes to his work, Perera gets down to the bone, not just overhauling the body but also tweaking the engines and electrical wiring.

But getting parts can get tricky. It he cannot find one, he and his workers make one from the basics—a tribute to Filipino ingenuity.

Perera began working with automobiles as a child at his father Domingo's automobile shop. Although now 75 years old, his father still runs his son's shop.

"Every time I see my cars, I see his legacy," said Perera.

The youngest Perera finished a course in commerce at the University of Santo Tomas, but left them to attend to setting up an auto shop. A father of five, he says he owes it his kids the same interest in cars.

Several of his creations were even employees of his father, and some of their sons now also work for Perera.

Eighteen years of tinkering with old cars have given his establishment a reputation even though there are similar businesses in the neighborhood. At first, there was just one among the many auto shops in the Kamuning area, although now specialize in modern vehicles.

There may be other vintage car shops in the country but skill, style and the ability to deliver on the client's request is their advantage, over their competitors, he told the Inquirer.

"Cars come here a total wreck; I can deliver it like new. All you'll need is the new key," he said.

It is this confidence that has brought him to the arena of car shows and competitions, joining it for the first time in 2008. The next years saw his entries among the top three in the Manila Auto Salon and Texas Super Show.

Hoping to add to these accolades, Perera will join this year's 4th Concours d'Elegance at SM Mall of Asia in Pasay City later this month, one of the most prestigious in the Philippines as participation is by invitational only.

Still, Perera said it's not the competition or the money that drives him but his passion for old cars.

"It's the familiar one ride here," he said. With each vintage car they restore, Alfred's Motor Works brings new life to the owner's classic.

ALFRED PEREZ, the owner of a shop which restores vintage cars, shares off his "project"—a 1958 Chevrolet pickup truck; a 1959 Buick Roadmaster (far left) and a 1946 Ford pickup.

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More than 80 people killed in Southern Sudan violence

JUBA, Sudan—More than 80 people were killed when rebels attacked cattle herders in Southern Sudan, officials said, while hundreds more fled the southern capital in protest of the unresolved status of a volatile border hotspot.

The governor of Warrap state on Tuesday said that rebels loyal to a high-ranking commander who defected from the southern army in March attacked a village of cattle herders in the remote southern state on Sunday.

Warrap state Governor Nyon Deng Malek said rebels forces led by rebel leader Peter Gadet raided the village of Tajuk with the aim of stealing cattle.

"They didn't manage to take away cattle," she said.

Like many parts of vast, underdeveloped Southern Sudan, Warrap state is populated by well-armed but impoverished cattle herders, who keep their AK-47s from decades of civil war to protect themselves.

The fighting, which continued on Monday killed more than 80 rebels and villagers, southern Army spokesperson Lt.G. Philip Aguer told The Associated Press on Tuesday.

Gadet's rebel group, one of at least seven movements who have declared their intent to overthrow the Juba-based southern government, also claimed responsibility for deadly attacks in oil-rich Unity state last month, where rebels burned huts and looted property.

The southern Army's campaign to defeat the rebels and restore operating across the mostly Texas-sized south have not been successful to date. The Sudan People's Liberation Army's counterinsurgency efforts against a rebel commander in Jonglei state in February left hundreds dead, most of them civilians.

The violence has cast a shadow over the optimism that fueled the south's January independence vote, when southerners voted overwhelmingly in favor of their own nation.

Internal divisions within the south caused great bloodshed during Sudan's north-south civil war, which ended in 2005. Khartoum-backed southern militias razed villages in oil-producing areas and killed civilians allied with the southern liberation movement, which became the south's ruling party.

Also on Tuesday, hundreds marched in Juba to protest a decision by the government to remove the southern border region of Abyei from the south's transitional constitution as Southern Sudan prepares for independence in July.

Some waved banners reading "There is no more compromise. Abyei is for Southern Sudan."

The protesters delivered a petition to the southern parliament, which is currently considering a draft constitution that will be in place until the new nation finalizes its structure.

"We don't need to fight, we don't need war, but we want our rights," said Peter Awou, a protester who said he wants Abyei to join the south.

On Tuesday, four UN peacekeepers were shot and wounded while on patrol close to Abyei, UN spokesperson Farhan Haq said.

Haq said the Zambian peacekeepers were evacuated for immediate medical treatment and their condition was not immediately known. He said the identity of the attackers has not been determined.

The patrol was heading from Diffra to Abiet and the attack took place near the town of Goli, Haq said.

The UN has some 9,000 troops and 700 international police officers enforcing a 2005 peace deal that ended the civil war between the ethnic African south and Sudan's Arab-dominated government.

The UN condemned the attack and Haq said investigatory meeting of military officials from both sides and the UN would be held on Wednesday.

The north and south are still negotiating the status of Abyei. Diplomats and analysts fear the dispute over the oil-producing region could ignite a new conflict. AP

TRADITIONAL Japanese storyteller Sanyumi Kyosaku performs during a fund-raising event for victims of the March 11 earthquake and tsunami at Cohoro Hall in Ishinomaki, Iwate Prefecture, Japan. AP

UN chief Ban calls for ceasefire in Libya

TRIPOLI—UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon called on Wednesday for an "immediate, verifiable ceasefire" in Libya, where rebels are fighting to end Moammar Gadhafi's 41 years in power.

Ban was speaking in Geneva after talking with Libya's Prime Minister Al-Baghdadi Ali al-Mahmudi. Ban's call was the most direct response from the rebels or government.

Gadhafi's government has made several ceasefire declarations but has continued its attacks on the besieged western city of Misrata and other rebel-held areas.

"Dr. (Mahmoudi) even suggested the Libyan government was willing to have an immediate ceasefire with a monitoring team to be established by the United Nations and the African Union," Ban told reporters. "I welcome this."

"But first and foremost there should be an end to the fighting in Misrata and elsewhere. There we will be able to provide humanitarian assistance and in parallel are ran continue our political discussion," Ban added.

Rebels said on Tuesday they made gains by driving back Gadhafi's troops on the eastern and western edges of Misrata and rocketing them at the airport.

The rebels also said they had taken the towns of Zawwia, about 25 km west of Misrata, but no independent verification of their statements was available.

Misrata, besieged by Gadhafi's forces for eight weeks, is the only major city the rebels hold in the west of the country.

Ban's televised remarks came on Tuesday in the Tripoli area on targets that appeared to include Gadhafi's compound, witnesses said. Nato said Libya is carried out a strike against a government command and control node in the capital.

After three months of revolt linked to the year's uprisings in other Arab countries, the war has reached a stalemate. Rebels hold Benghazi and other towns in the oil-producing east while government controls the capital and almost all of the west.

Thousands have been killed in the fighting in the vast country, which has a population of more than six million.

The government says the rebels are armed criminals and al-Qaida militants and that the majority of Libyans support Gadhafi, who has been in power since 1969.

He has not appeared in public since April 30, when a Nato airstrike on a house in the capital killed his youngest son and three of his grandchildren.

Rebels had surrounded Gadhafi's forces in Misrata airport and an air force academy near the southern neighborhood of al-Hamam, where the two sides fought fierce battles on Monday, a witness and a rebel spokesperson said. Reuters

Storyteller tries to cheer Japan tsunami victims

KOMOSHIRI, Japan—The celebrated Japanese storyteller kneels in front of a room full of families that have lost everything—their homes, their loved ones, their entire town—and tries to fan somehow into a broad grin.

"There once was a samurai who loved to drink sake," he says, and begins to carve as through lyric.

The samurai story, a classic comedy hundreds of years old, normally draws a steady stream of laughs. But it gets only a few chuckles at this shelter for those who lost their homes to the March 11 earthquake and tsunami.

After two months, survivors of the disaster receive a steady supply of food, water and medical provisions. Now, Sanyutei Kyosaku is trying to serve some a different kind of thing—getting them to smile again.

Kyosaku is a master of "rakugo," the ancient Japanese art of humorous storytelling, and usually performs in front of crowded halls in Tokyo or on national TV. At the shelter in Ishinomaki, he sits in a cramped meeting room at netbed on an abandoned greenhouse, his audience standing three rows deep behind him.

In a culture where pain and sorrow are internalized and not discussed openly, it is often difficult for those living in shelters with little privacy to have a sense of humor.

"Some people tell can't even laugh yet, they just wish one could," said 77-year-old Kyosaku, who has given free performances all along Japan's battered northeastern coast since the disasters.

Kyosaku is the stage name of Takayuki Sato, 67. He performs in the Edo style, kneeling on a small cushion and dressed in a simple kimono with only a paper fan and a handkerchief for props. He employs expressions and mannerisms to play several roles at the same time—chatty ladies, confused grandmothers, angry dogs—quickly alternating voices for each throughout a story.

"I was really interesting. I thought it was great," says Keiko Ishizawa, 57, who sat nearly seven hours through the show.

The audience, including quite a few adults who almost never smile, typically laughs about the normal errors of dealing with personal tragedy and living months without any privacy and the need for everyone to help fill the spirits of those around them.

"If you want to make people second you could," he says. "You have to start by smiling yourself."

Some 120,000 people are living in shelters, operated by the earthquake and tsunami that left more than 25,000 dead or missing along the northeastern coast. While evictees in some areas have started to move into temporary housing, it will be months more before enough are built for everyone that lost their home. AP

NEW VISIT Japan's Emperor Akihito (left) talks to an evacuee at a relocation center two months after the massive earthquake and tsunami. REUTERS

Japan PM eyes Cabinet revamp

TOKYO—Japanese Prime Minister Naoto Kan is poised for a cabinet reshuffle as early as soon as June, in a bid to reinforce the government's reconstruction efforts after a massive quake and tsunami and to strengthen his standing within the ruling party, Kyodo news agency said on Wednesday.

Kan, under fire for his response to the disaster and the ensuing nuclear woes, is mulling ousting ministerial posts in local reconstruction and nuclear crisis-hit prefectures, Kyodo said, citing sources close to the prime minister.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yukio Edano said the government plans to this week submit a bill to parliament seeking to add three Cabinet positions to the current 17.

"We would like to reorganize the structure to strengthen our handling of reconstruction with (a minister to) respond to the earthquake damage as well as the nuclear issue," he said.

There are also various ministers among the 17 now that hold multiple posts," Edano told a news conference.

Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirofumi Gotgoda will likely be tapped for the post handling reconstruction, while Goshi Hosono, an aide to Kan and a ruling Democratic Party lawmaker, is seen as a strong candidate for the role managing the nuclear accident at a Tokyo Electric Power (Tepco) plant, Kyodo said.

The earthquake and tsunami on March 11 triggered cooling system malfunctions at Tokyo Electric's Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power facility, causing meltdowns in three of the atomic reactors and scare.

Engineers are still struggling to bring the plant under control.

The radioactive could cause cancer after the end of the current season of parliament on June 22, but Kan may postpone it until just before an extraordinary session of parliament expected to start in August, Kyodo cited the sources as saying. Reuters

Syrian military tightens grip

AMMAN—Tanks and troops rolled into southern villages near the home of Syria's antigovernment uprising on Tuesday while officials in Washington said the US administration is edging closer to calling for an end to the Assad family's long rule after its violent suppression of the protests.

The Syrian military has been sealing off villages and conducting house-to-house raids in search of people whose names are on wanted lists, with many people fleeing the fear of detention by President Bashar Assad's regime, activists say.

A human rights group reported on Tuesday that more than 750 people have been killed in the crackdown.

In Washington, Obama administration officials said the first step in a new American approach toward Syria would be to declare that Assad has forfeited his legitimacy to rule, a policy shift that would amount to a call for regime change.

The toughest line from almost certainly would echo demands for "democratic transition" that the administration used in Egypt and is now espousing in Libya, the official said. But directly challenging Assad's leadership is a decision fraught with problems with economic dividend, Europe is still trying to engage Damascus and there are major doubts over how far the United States could go to back up its words with action.

The Obama administration's policy deliberations were unnerving against a backdrop of ongoing violence in Syria.

Security forces in Jassem have taken effort in the Dirmaseen suburb of Hamdaniyeh, which has been sealed off for days, said human rights activist Mustafa Osso. He said communications have been cut and checkpoints were preventing anyone from entering or leaving the area. AP

No country immune from disasters, warns UN chief

GENEVA—UN chief Ban Ki-moon on Tuesday warned that no country or city was immune from natural or man-made disasters, as he opened the meeting, "trillion-dollar, economies risks the world faces.

Ban told a four-day UN conference on disaster risk that the devastating earthquake and tsunami in highly prepared Japan and the ensuing nuclear accident in the Fukushima Daiichi power plant on March 11 gave the world "a grave wake-up call for the future."

"No one here learned a game and again no country or city...rich or poor—is immune," the UN Secretary General said.

A report for the meeting of 2,000 experts and officials estimated that the amount of global wealth exposed to harm by natural disasters had nearly tripled from $USD1.7 billion 40 years ago to $1.16 trillion.

Meanwhile, the risk of economic losses to society (GRED) economies due to floods has increased by 166 percent over the past 30 years, while for tropical cyclones the risk has grown by 262 percent, the report estimated.

"The risk of losing wealth in disasters is actually increasing faster than that wealth is being created," said Andrew Maskrey, coordinator of the 2011 Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction.

"Losses from disasters are often at least as great as those a country is experiencing through high inflation or armed conflict for example," Maskrey told journalists.

The report by the UN's disaster reduction unit said the damage inflicted by mainly natural disasters on housing, infrastructure and public assets such as schools and hospitals was "soaring in many low and middle income countries."

Maskrey suggested that the costs were growing largely because prevention or mitigation measures—such as land planning or tsunami zones or resistant housing, schools or hospitals—were failing to keep pace with factors and broader economic growth.

The report also reiterated warnings about growing percent of extreme and destructive weather events that has been linked to climate change.

Ban insisted that nuclear safety and the threat of multiple hazards added to urgency.

"The world's vulnerability to disaster risks is growing faster than our ability to increase resilience," he warned.

The average number of annually-reported disasters caused by tropical cyclones during the last four decades has tripled, and spans a wider range of countries, according to the report.

However, the UN for the first time predicted a downward trend for mortality in weather-related disasters, especially in East Asia, despite spiraling population growth in flood plains or exposed coastlines.

"I think we're now moving the focus from levels of temporal development conditions in many countries as well as improvements in disaster preparedness, response and early warning systems," Maskrey said.

He underlines, many governments added in a UN survey that they were having trouble raising preventive steps such as land planning, safe building codes or investing in stabilizing slopes, while they developed. AFP

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Ruivivar

Bin Laden's sons assail US over raid

WASHINGTON—The adult sons of Osama bin Laden have lashed out at President Obama in their first public reaction to their father's death, accusing the United States of violating its basic legal principles by killing an unarmed man, shooting his family members and disposing of his body in the sea.

The statement, provided to The New York Times on Tuesday, said the family was asking, why bin Laden, the leader of al-Qaida, "was not arrested and tried in a court of law so that truth is revealed to the people of the world."

Citing the trials of Saddam Hussein, the former Iraqi leader, and Slobodan Milosevic, the former Serbian leader, the statement questioned "the propriety of such assassination where not only international law has been blatantly violated," but the principles of presumption of innocence and the right to a fair trial were ignored.

"We maintain that arbitrary killing is not a solution to political problems," the statement said, adding that "justice must be seen to be done."

The statement, prepared in the direction of Omar bin Laden, who had publicly denounced his father's execution, was provided to The Times by Jean Sasson, an American author who helped the younger bin Laden write a 2009 memoir, "Growing Up bin Laden." A shorter, slightly different statement was posted on Jihadist Web sites.

Omar bin Laden, 30, lived with his father in Afghanistan until 2009, when he left with his mother, Najwa bin Laden, who is from the Assirah. In the book and other public statements, the younger bin Laden had denounced violence of all kinds, a stance he repeated in the sons' statement.

"We want to remind the world that Omar bin Laden, the fourth born son of our father, always disagreed with our father regarding any violence and always sent messages to our father, that he must change his ways and that no civilians should be attacked under any circumstances," the statement said. "Despite the difficulty of publicly disagreeing with our father, he never hesitated in condemning any violent attacks made by al-qaeda, and expressed sorrow for the victims of any and all attacks."

Condemning the shooting of one of the al-Qaida leader's sisters during the assault on May 2 in Abbottabad, Pakistan, the statement added, "As he condemned our father, we now condemn the atrocities of the United States for ordering the execution of unarmed men and women."

In explaining the killing of bin Laden, Obama administration officials have cited the principle of national self-defense in international law, saying that bin Laden had declared war on the United States, killed thousands of Americans and vowed to kill more.

The sons' statement called on the government of Pakistan to hand over to family members the three wives and a number of children now believed to be in Pakistani custody and asked for a United Nations investigation of the circumstances of their father's death.

Three of Osama bin Laden's sons other than Omar, who lives in Saudi Arabia and Qatar, were named in the statement. Sasson said she believed it was approved by three other adult sons who have not lived with their father for many years. Bobri Osama bin Laden fled Afghanistan in 2001, he had at least 11 sons, one of whom was killed in the assault last week, and nine daughters, by Sasson's count. —New York Times News Service

OMAR bin Laden, a son of Osama bin Laden, and his wife, Zahra Alsabah, in this 2009 photo. He has denounced his father's executions.

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Musharraf: No deal to get Osama

ISLAMABAD—Former Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf on Tuesday denied that his administration struck an agreement with the United States years ago to let American special forces kill or capture Osama bin Laden inside Pakistan.

The denial follows a report in a British newspaper that Washington and Islamabad reached a secret deal exactly a decade ago allowing the US to conduct operations against Bin Laden and two other top al-Qaida leaders on Pakistani soil.

"Pervez Musharraf has seen a media report, and let me make it clear that no such agreement has been signed during his tenure," said Musharraf's spokesperson, Fawad Chaudhry. He said there was no oral agreement either.

US Navy SEALs conducted a unilateral operation on May 2 inside Pakistan that killed Bin Laden, the world's most wanted terrorist. The predawn raid was viewed by many Pakistanis as a national humiliation delivered by a deeply unpopular America.

In a report published on Thursday, The Guardian newspaper quoted US officials and retired Pakistani officials, and Musharraf and former President George W. Bush made the agreement after Bin Laden escaped US forces in the mountains of Tora Bora in late 2001. If such a raid were undertaken, the agreement was that Pakistani officials would publicly denounce the US unilateral action. —AP

Al-Qaida warns US of intensified jihad

WASHINGTON—Al-Qaida's successor to Osama bin Laden's terrorist brotherhood—has warned Americans of a bloodier jihadist struggle to come following the terror mastermind's killing by US commandos.

The warning from al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula came as top US Senator John Kerry announced a trip to meet leaders with a troubled Pakistan, where Bin Laden was gunned down, but also to seek answers on how he came to be there.

AQAP leader Nasir al-Wahishi said in a statement posted on an Islamist website that the "number of jihad (holy war) is heightened" following the May 1 death of Bin Laden, according to the SITE monitoring group on Wednesday.

The Yemen-based fugitive warned Americans not to feel themselves that the "matter will be over" with the killing of Bin Laden, the Saudi-born architect of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks.

"Do not think of the battle as perfectly ... What is coming is greater and worse, and what is awaiting you is more intense and harmful," Wahishi said, according to a SITE translation.

"We promise Allah that we will remain firm in the covenant and that we will continue the march, and that the death of the sheikh will only increase our persistence to fight the Jews and the Americans in order to take revenge."

The United States has warned of the threat posed by Islamist militancy in Yemen, the homeland of Bin Laden's father, and has treated of the potential for the country to become a new staging ground for al-Qaida.

The AQAP was born of a January 2009 merger between the Saudi and Yemeni al-Qaida branches. It claimed a failed attempt to bomb a Detroit-bound US airliner in December 2009, and was accused last October of sending parcel bombs addressed to US synagogues that were disguised inside computer printers. —AFP

Sun Cellular Redefines Customer Experience with the new Sun Shop Flagship store

True to its commitment to deliver the best value and relationship-enhancing services to its consumers, industry pioneer Sun Cellular opens its new and first Flagship store at Greenhills's Galleria mall.

The new bigger and trendier Sun Shop features not only contemporary store design but also customer-friendlier space layout. Sun products and services are organized to "zones and sub-zones" to better serve the specific needs of customers and enhance the transaction flows inside the shop. The Postpaid zone puts on view various subscription plans and packages, include handsets from the basic models to BlackBerry models, and other fantastic postpaid deals. The International zone highlights Sun's best value offers in international call, international SMS, and international roaming. The Broadband zone presents the newest broadband wireless devices, attractive data plans and unbeatable product bundles. The Prepaid zone familiarizes customers to the various Sun prepaid SIMs that cater to different types of users, very affordable loads, and exciting promotions.

More interactive facilities are also available for added fun which includes a state-of-the-art 42" touch screen display with a sound dome where customers can sample the latest in value-added services (games, music, videos, etc.). An offset counter area in the gadget spot where customers try the latest in mobile phones and allows customers to explore the various phone functionalities with the use of larger screen.

Even with all these innovations in the Flagship store, Sun keeps intact one important and endearing element – its warmth. The new Sun Shop remains to be an welcoming as ever with its bright color schemes, its cozy customer service sections, and its caring personnel. There is a dedicated lounge exclusively for special customers who prefer "business class" type of service. And there's a more spacious payments area for those with "to go" type of transactions such as single transaction bills payment and prepaid reload.

The concept shop is designed by renowned Zobra Puig arts PZE (owned by Chabot under the supervision of managing directors Hilarie Marcos and Lou Fisher). Zobra Projects PZE is the same company responsible for designing sales locations and retail stores in the country.

For more information about the new Sun Flagship store and The Sun Shops nationwide, please call 208 from your Sun phone or 3456000 from any land line phone or you can visit www.sunCellular.com.ph.

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BUSINESS

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Brokers get TRO against SEC on poll row

20% single industry limit under Securities Regulation Code

By Doris C. Dumlao

LOCAL STOCK brokers will be able to vote to the full extent of their 32-percent shareholdings during the Philippine Stock Exchange elections this Saturday.

The PSE disclosed yesterday that it had received a writ of preliminary injunction from the regional trial court of Pasig City Branch 168 restraining its commissioner and electoral committee (Comelec) from imposing the 20-percent ownership limitation under the Securities Regulation Code.

The injunction would be in place "until such time that the controversy in the petition are resolved," the PSE said.

BUSINESS, B2

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE
42.880
May 11, 2011

STOCK MARKET
May 11, 2011
31.91

See more market news on Page B3

Stocks continue to rise

LOCAL STOCKS rose for a third straight day yesterday as cash got on hands-on buying outlook encouraged buying on select blue chip counters.

At the end of trading, the Philippine Stock Exchange index (Psei) at 4,330.59, was reporting an increase of 0.73 percent or 31.91 points.

The most active stock yesterday was San Miguel Corp., with its price ending slightly better at P113.00 and accounting for 8.61 percent of total trades.

Ayala Land Corp. increased 2.5 percent to P15, its biggest gain since April 21. The electricity producer may build a gas-fired power plant as it looks for more assets to expand its capacity, company president Francis Giles Puno said.

Globe Telecom Inc., the nation's second biggest telecommunications company, rose 2.7 percent to P1,900. The biggest gain since March 28. First-quarter net income increased 1 percent to P3.3 billion, ending four straight quarters of year-on-year declines.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., the nation's most valuable company, declined 0.7 percent to P2,482. Net income in the first quarter fell 9.6 percent to P9.172 billion on lower revenue, the company said.

A fractional indexes ended in the green, led by the holding firms' sector, which rose 1.6 percent.

Trading volume was relatively heavy with P4.2 billion worth of stock changing hands.

Advancers outpaced decliners, 70 to 60, with 43 stocks remaining unchanged.

Darlo L. Lucas, Bloomberg

First-quarter GDP growth seen at less than 6%

By Michelle V. Remo

THE ECONOMY was expected to have expanded by a measly 4.5 percent in the first quarter given improved productivity of the agriculture sector and higher sales of the motor vehicle and clothing industries.

This was the consensus in the latest issue of Market Call, the joint monthly publication of First Metro Investment Corp. (FMIC) and the University of Asia and the Pacific (UAP).

The government earlier reported that the agriculture sector grew 4.1 percent in the first three months from a year ago, from contracting from the 5-percent contraction in the same period last year. The growth of the farm sector was driven by higher production of palay, corn and sugarcane.

The output of the manufacturing and mining sectors likewise grew due to higher domestic and global demand, aided by the higher production of these sectors, the country's export revenues may have grown by 9 percent in the first quarter, the paper said.

The growth projection of Market Call is the first quarter was considered dovish, but was bullish than the government's own target for the full year.

The government is aiming for an economic growth of at least 7 percent this year, or just about the same as the 7.3 percent recorded last year. Last year's expansion

FIRST QUARTER, B2

Sumitomo Metal buys 25% stake in Nickel Asia subsidiary

Gets option to increase interest to 40%

NICKEL ASIA Corp. yesterday said that it has signed a participation and shareholders' agreement with Sumitomo Metal Mining Co. Ltd. concerning the terms of the Japanese firm's expected equity participation in its subsidiary Cordillera Exploration Co. Inc. (Cexi).

Under the terms of the agreement, Sumitomo will invest $1.3 million in Cexi in return for a 25-percent equity stake. Once such funds have been exhausted, Sumitomo has the option to invest $2.6 million for an additional 15-percent equity, which would bring its total interest in Cexi to 40 percent. The funds will be used for exploration work on Cexi's properties.

Nickel Asia purchased Cexi in November last year from Anglo American Exploration Philippines, following Anglo's decision to exit the country. Cexi has four properties in the central Cordillera area in northern Luzon that are prospective for the exploration of gold and copper.

The Bluestmark property in the province of Apayao in particular has been subjected to substantial geological work by the previous owner, prior to Anglo. Nickel Asia Philippines, and by Anglo as well. The work included geo, physical studies consisting of induced polarization (IP) and aeromagnetic radiometric surveys. On the basis of the overall geological work, Anglo identified that the property could contain shallower sedimentary-hosted epithermal gold and deeper copper-gold porphyry-style deposits, and had identified four drilling targets.

Sumitomo is a shareholder in Nickel Asia and is the majority shareholder in the country's first hydrometallurgical nickel processing plant, Coral Bay. It is also the majority shareholder in the country's second nickel processing plant, Taganito HNC. Nickel Cogt., in partnership with Nickel Asia and Mitsui and Co., which is currently under construction.

It also has substantial interests and experience in copper (the Toyo copper smelter and refinery in Japan and strategic investments in a number of copper mines around the world) and gold (the Hishikari gold mine in Japan and the Pogo gold mine in Alaska).

Nickel Asia is the Philippines' biggest producer of laterite nickel ore. The purchase of Cexi last year marked the first step in its strategy to diversify into gold and copper.

Ayala to list P10B worth of bonds on PDEx

COSCOLABRADOR ASIA Corp. is set to list on the fixed income exchange Philippine Dealing and Exchange Corp. today, its P10 billion worth of innovative bonds that allow investors to cash out ahead of maturity date.

Rizda Cleofasol to the Philippine Stock Exchange that PDEx has approved its application to list the debt. Cleofasol says, multiple-put bonds due 2021.

"The listing of the bonds will widen the reach of price discovery and transparency for the Ayala issue and enable participation across all markets on PDEx," the disclosure said.

The trading and settlement of the bonds, which are rated "triple-A" by local credit watcher Philippine Rating Services Corp., will be in accordance with the PDEx rules. Obligations rated triple-A by Philratings are deemed of the highest quality with minimal credit risk. The borrower's capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligations is considered extremely strong.

These innovative bonds give the investors the flexibility to sell their bonds back to Ayala before full maturity, thanks a "put" option it gives on the 10th and eighth year. The "multiple-put bonds" are also called as such because investors have a choice on whether to make an early exit on the 10th or eighth year or wait until the 15th year.

Doris C. Bumilao

Brokers get TRO against SEC on poll row

From page B1

That means that for the elections on Saturday, the brokers could again vote in excess of the 20-percent single-industry limit that the Securities and Exchange Commission had directed the PSE to observe for the 2011 elections. A similar court injunction was obtained from the court last year.

Of the PSE's outstanding shares, about 51 percent are still held by the brokers, a group exclusive from the original 130 previously after the exchange was "demutualized" or converted into a corporation as required by the Securities Regulation Code (SRC).

The Philippine Association of Securities Brokers and Dealers Inc. (PASBDI), however, had again gone to court to challenge the 20-percent cap on their cumulative voting rights.

The 20-percent voting limit is directed by brokers as something that would have curtailed their rights because it would have allowed non-broker investors in the PSE to leverage more on their shares.

Some 23 candidates are running for seats in the 11-member PSE board during this year's annual stockholders' meeting.

All the candidates for the open seats are brokers after a former PSE corporate secretary was not allowed by the PSE nomination and elections committee to run as a non-broker.

Former Trade and Finance Secretary Jose T. Pardo will likely be elected as the next PSE chair. By sheer number of shares held, the Ana Bilgaid group—through its retirement fund and a privately owned company of head Imelda Gaston Ang—is still the single most influential voting block in the bourse, accounting for close to a fifth of total shares.

First-quarter GDP growth . . .

From page B1

rate was the fastest in more than three decades.

The Market Call said remittances to the Philippines, despite the ill-effects of the tensions in the Middle East and North Africa, have remained relatively healthy and were expected to sustain growth given sufficient demand for Filipino labor in other markets.

It noted that of the 2,304 overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) repatriated from Libya amid the political violence, 1,121 have already found new jobs in other parts of the globe.

As remittances continued to bolster consumption, the increase in consumer prices consequently accelerated. Nonetheless, Market Call said the increase in prices in the first quarter had remained within the official ceiling set by the government and was expected to remain as such in the second quarter.

Inflation averaged 4.1 percent in the first three months of the year, the National Statistician Office earlier reported.

The government has set a goal of limiting inflation this year and next to 3-5 percent.

"Despite higher oil prices, which appear to have breached a plateau in April, inflation will remain below 5 percent in the second quarter, considering very stable rice and food prices," Market Call said.

BHP Billiton gets stake in Palawan prospect

By Amy S. Remo

BHP BILLITON has acquired a 60 percent stake in Service Contract 59, making the exploration giant the operator of the contract area off Palawan.

In a regulatory filing, Australian firm Oriel Energy Ltd. said the acquisition would be finalized after joint venture and regulatory approvals are received and Oriel's costs are reimbursed.

BHP Billiton is expected to finish one offshore deepwater well by 2012, and it has an option to drill a second well by 2013.

The acquisition by BHP Billiton will bring its stake in SC 59 to 33.33 percent. Prior to this farm-in agreement, Otto Energy, through its local subsidiary Nicholson Energy Ltd., held an 80 percent working interest and is the operator of SC59, while the remaining 15 percent was held by Japan's Toto Trans-Asia Oil and Energy Development Corp.

"We are looking forward to continuing to work with BHP Billiton in SC 59 as we move into the drilling phase of exploration activities," said Otto Energy managing director Paul Moore.

SC 59 covers 9,000 square kilometers. The Hawkeye prospect alone is expected to contain an estimated 1.9 billion barrels of gas and 547 million barrels of oil.

URC income down 28% to ₱3.28B

By Doris C. Dumlao

CONSUMER GOOD FOOD manufacturer Universal Robina Corp. recorded a 28 percent year-on-year decline in consolidated net profit to ₱3.28 billion from October 2010 to March 2011, the first semester in its fiscal year.

The drop was due to the decline in market values of bond and equity investments and lower operating income despite higher sales, URC disclosed to the Philippine Stock Exchange.

URC's core earnings before tax amounted to ₱4.65 billion for the first half of fiscal year 2011, down by 10.8 percent from the same period last year.

Consolidated net sales and revenues for the first six months amounted to ₱51.5 billion, up by 11.9 percent from the year before.

The largest contributor to the group's sales revenue, URC's branded consumer foods segment, increased sales of goods and services by 17.2 percent to ₱24.777 billion in the first half compared to the same period last year.

The sales increase was due mainly to the strong performance of the refreshment operations, which grew net sales by 49.3 percent in the first half to ₱2.9 billion.

In peso terms, net sales increased by 16.6 percent largely due to increases in sales volume. This was supported by strong sales growth in Vietnam, China, Thailand and Malaysia.

Domestic operations grew modestly by 5 percent in the first half to ₱34.6 billion from the same period last year.

The increase in sales was largely driven by the strong performance of its snack foods category, which grew by 12.4 percent on account of growth in sales volume and increase in selling prices.

Net sales of URC's agro-industrial group amounted to ₱3.28 billion in the first half, a 7.9 percent decline from a year ago. The feeds business grew by 10.1 percent to ₱1.63 billion because of increases in sales volume and selling prices.

Meanwhile, the farm business declined by 26.4 percent due to sales reducing and farm gate prices dropped. DNC's commodity foods group amounted to ₱8.27 billion in the first half, up by 30.6 percent from a year ago. This was primarily due to the 53.5 percent jump in net sales of the sugar business, as have driven by higher sales volume and better prices.

The flour business also grew by 4.5 percent as result of price increases.

URC's operating income decreased by 12.3 percent to ₱4.02 billion as the first half as the increase in commodity prices jacked up input costs. The cost pressures, however, were partly offset by the price adjustments made in the company's domestic products.

CPD Creative Training and Management has taken corporate excellence to the fore with the following seminars: "Warehouse Rigs for Golf" (May 19, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.); "Hiring Successfully" (May 21, 9-5); "Procurement for Purchasing Supervisor" (May 25, 9-5); "Negotiating Skills in Procurement" (May 27, 9-5); "Effective Supervisory Skills" (May 27, 9-5); "Warehouse/Rig for Supervisors" (June 3, 9-5); "Labor Laws for Managers and Laymen" (June 4, 9-5); "Personality Disc-T" (June 10, 9-5); "Purchasing Mgt" (June 11, 9-5).

For more details, call 5887860, 4150945, 7560765, 6263150.

In search of a more speedy trial system

POINT OF LAW

Francis Lim

THE ESCRITOIRE syndrome of cases in the Philippines, most of which are filed in the Metropolitan and Regional Trial Courts, invariably result in the clogging of the courts' dockets. As proven, it takes an average of six years to finally adjudicate a case. With this alarming figure, it is not surprising why the Philippines was ranked 140th out of 183 countries in 2011 by the World Bank for "Ease of Doing Business", thus ranking not far but one of the global competitiveness index.

Unknown to many the Supreme Court has taken progressive steps over the years to lessen, if not eliminate, this problem. Despite all the laudable projects, however, the clear administration of justice remains an oft-repeated complaint against our judicial system.

The current system needs compelling changes that will challenge the norms, even, weakened and the comfort of entrenched in the courts.

The answer is to be found in the Proposed Rules for Hearing and Adjudicating Disputes that was recently approved by the Committee on the Revision of Rules of the Supreme Court. The proposed, spearheaded by Supreme Justice Roberto Abad, will be presented to the Court En Banc for adoption in the same manner as the Rules of Procedure in order to adopt approach that aims to address the staggering length of trial and disposition of cases.

Non-adversarial nature of proceedings

The proposed rules will veer away from the adversarial or accusatorial system of procedure, which are inherited from the United States. In this system, the parties basically control the process through their lawyers trying to outwit each other during the entire proceedings at the expense of the speedy administration of justice. The judge remains impartial and is thought of as the referee of the proceeding and cannot do much or so to control the process. It is a system that has been described as more concerned with resolving controversies than finding the ultimate truth.

The proposed system is more akin to the inquisitorial system where the judge is actively control the process through their lawyers trying to outwit each other during the entire proceedings at the expense of the speedy administration of justice. The judge remains impartial and is thought of as the referee of the proceeding and cannot do much or so to control the process. It is a system that has been described as more concerned with resolving controversies than finding the ultimate truth.

The proposed system is more akin to the inquisitorial system where the judge is actively control the process through their lawyers, described as a non-adversarial procedure, which has been successfully tried and tested in several European countries. The presiding judge is not a mere passive recipient of information. He controls the process and actively steers the search for evidence. Lawyers play a less active role; their questioning will be severely restricted because it is the judge who asks relevant questions.

Some features

The proposed rules will do away with things that can normally delay court trials as: motions, postponements, interventions, modes of discovery, demurrers to evidence, memoranda, and trial, etc. More than that, they will allow for a less flowing system of examination. The judge can question the witnesses and together assist in examination. The staff heads who witness in matters like the present system wherein witnesses are examined one at a time, with each examination following a more consuming and burdensome sequence of direct, cross, redirect and re-cross examination.

To prevent evidences in the spontaneous manner of questioning, the court will have the factual issues individually and in the order determine during the preliminary conference, which will require the judge to diligently study the case and painstakingly prepare a summary of the conflicting claims and the factual and legal issues to be resolved.

Except in complex cases, witnesses must be heard in one sitting, and the judge must immediately announce his decision with respect to each factual issue in the presence of the parties. The corresponding written decision will be issued 15 days after the submission of evidence.

Addressing the criticism against the adversarial system where the wide availability of appeals unduly delays the final resolution of a case, the proposed rules limit the appeal of decisions of the municipal, city or metropolitan trial courts only to the Supreme Court (SC). The decision of the RTC in civil cases appealed to it will be final, executory and non-appealable.

In deference to the due process requirements of the Constitution, the proposed rules will not take away the basic rights of the parties, which includes, among others, the right to be represented by counsel, the right of the accused to be presumed innocent, his right to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation against him, the right of a party to cross-examine witnesses.

Hurdles to overcome

As with many changes, a shift from the present system will not come without hurdles. For one, we have the competence, diligence and integrity of some 1,000 judges to contend with. For another, the adversarial system of accusing disputes permeates in the minds of practitioner. Like but not least, our lawyers have been so used to the adversarial system and is still unwilling make some about the draconian shift in the way clients are represented before our courts of law. Surely, this unorthodox project will be a highly controversial matter in the field of law. What remains clear, however, is that hundreds of people have had to wait years before justice was rendered in their respective cases. Many more are still waiting. As a result, our judicial system has become decrepit and has prevented our country from truly progressed in the world arena of competition.

Clearly, the proposed rules need to be polished. The results will be reviewed and improvements will be made, if necessary. However, if the project is finally implemented, it will revolutionize our judicial system and will hopefully make the Philippines a more attractive investment destination, thereby increasing economic growth, and eventually raising more Filipinos above the poverty line.

The author, former president and CEO of the Philippine Stock Exchange, is now a management consultant and head of the corporate and special projects department of Asiacom. He may be contacted at fclim@asiacom.com.ph

TVIRD withdraws from Siennalynn exploration

By Rizz T. Dichoso

TVI RESOURCE Development (Phils.), Inc., the local subsidiary of Canada's TVI Pacific Inc., has pulled out of the Siennalynn copper-gold projects in Mindanao, according to a statement from the Canadian miner.

TVI said that TVIRD has completed exploration at Siennalynn and found that the copper-gold zones emulated did not produce commercial enough mineralization to warrant further exploration.

The results of the exploration program at it did not identify any significant ore bodies of copper or precious metals, TVI said.

Giving the results, TVI said the contract agreements with Siennalynn Gold Mining Corp. and TVI Siennalynn Mining Corp. have been terminated and the projects returned to the parties."

Meanwhile, TVIRD has made progress in other non-mine investments, notably the Cantoan Tantalum area.

Data acquisition has been completed and the results are being analyzed.

"Overall, TVI's goal for the EDA is to mine mine resources, has recently submitted a Certificate of Non-Overlap with nearby mineral claimants to the Mines and Geosciences Bureau in support of the application to convert the exploration permit to a mineral agreement by the Exploration Permit required to begin drilling identified mineralized prospects," TVI said.

TVI, meanwhile, also welcomed a new board of experience to its senior management team, Paul McGibbon.

The Canadian company said that McGibbon has more than 30 years professional experience in industrial relations in Eastern Australia (Tasmania, Queensland, New South Wales), Southeast Asia (Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam) and the Pacific (Fiji, Vanuatu, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea).

He knows the realities of operating in remote, tropical environments in Southeast Asia and understands the need for cultural sensitivity and close coordination with communities and local officials, TVI said.

McGibbon has apparently resided in the Philippines for over 17 years and has built experience in many parts of the Philippine archipelago.

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL MEAT INSPECTION SERVICE
Visayas Ave., Diliman, Quezon City
Telephone Nos. (02) 928-7551 loc. 109 / 111
Telefax Number: (02) 928-7551 loc. 109 / 111
URL: http://www.nmis.da.gov.ph
e-mail: nmis@nmis.da.gov.ph / e-mail@nmis.da.gov.ph

May 4, 2011

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **National Meat Inspection Service (NMIS)** through its Bid and Awards Committee (BAC) hereby interposed herewith applies **with authority / recommendation** to bid for the supply of **Fifty Four (54) security guards** for duty assignment in various and regulated offices. The **Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) is Four Million Eight Hundred Thousand Pesos** only) is duly authorized and appropriated for the purpose.

Eligibility and bid documents may be obtained from Prospective bidders during **May 12, 2011** until **May 24, 2011** during office hours upon payment of non-refundable fee of Ten Thousand Pesos (Php 10,000.00). Eligibility of prospective bidders will be based on compliance with the following requirements, given the peaceful non-discretionary, militia as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of R.A. 9184, the Government Procurement Reform Act.

A pre-bid conference will be held on **May 16, 2011, 10:00 AM** at NMIS Conference Hall where deadline for submission and opening of bids will be on **May 31, 2011, 10:00 AM**, upon which, late submission of bids shall not be accepted.

All interested parties may submit their bid documents to:

THE BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
National Meat Inspection Service
Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 920-5551 to 61-4431, Telefax: 922-5551 to 61-4431

The NMIS reserves the right to reject any or all bids, as well as to waive any defect or deficiencies required by such bids, and to accept such bids considered most advantageous to the agency.

For more inquiries please contact Ms. **Jeanie C. Rodriguez** at the above address and telephone numbers.

(Sgd.) **DR. HILDO C. LORENZO**
Chairperson, NMIS BAC

(BAC – May 4, 2011)

SOUTHERN LEYTE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Servicio, Maasin City, Southern Leyte
Tel# (053) 381-2144 / (053) 381-2790, Telefax (053) 570-9823

INVITATION FOR BIDS 07-2011
HINABAN 9(8)MW MINI-HYDRO PLANT REHABILITATION OF HINABAN 8(6)-HYDRO PLANT

Southern Leyte Electric Cooperative, Inc. (SOLECO) invites qualified and eligible bidders for the **Furnishing of Labor, Materials, Supervision and Equipment necessary for the DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION for the CIVIL WORKS REHABILITATION of the 8(6)MW HINABAN MINI-HYDRO POWER PLANT**. The construction period is Two-Hundred Sixty Five (265) Calendar days.

Bidding will be conducted through the competitive bidding of **FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DES INGENIEURS- CONSEILS (FIDIC-STANDARD 4TH EDITION, 1987)** and is open to all qualified bidders.

Deadline for submission of application for pre-qualification will be on May 17, 2011. Eligible bidders are required to be present in the onsite inspection and pre-bidding conference scheduled on **May 18 and 20**, respectively. Failure to attend the pre-bid conference automatically disqualifies a participant from entering the final bidding.

Interested bidders may obtain further technical information from the Southern Leyte Electric Cooperative (SOLECO). A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased upon submission of written application to the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Fifteen Thousand Pesos (PhP 15,000.00) in the form of cash to SOLECO. The document can be picked up at the BAC Secretariat.

Sealed Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 2:00 p.m., **May 30, 2011**. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of Two and a half percent (2.5%). Late bids will be rejected. Bids opening commence the presence of bidder's representative at the address below at 2:10 p.m., May 30, 2011.

SOLECO reserves the right to reject any or all bids whenever the interest of the Cooperative so demands.

Southern Leyte Electric Cooperative, Inc. (SOLECO)
Mr. Rosalio S. Gerong, MBA, General Manager
Servicio, Maasin City, Southern Leyte

BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO BID

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following project:

Approved Project/Brief Description	One (1) unit supply of labor, supervision, tools and equipment, materials and consumables for the operation and preventive maintenance servicing of the centralized Air-conditioning System in the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	P2,200,000.00
Contract Duration	One (1) year renewable from the date specified in the Telephone Request for Quotation for Facilities Management and Engineering Requirements

Prospective bidders should have completed a similar requirement/ project and considered from a third to project servicing in at least 50% of the ABC. The Eligible Bidder/s remaining as valid as the Philippine Government of Bids shall use only shareholders/ agencies' orders. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

Interested and qualified bidder/s may obtain and purchase the Bid Documents starting May 9, 2011 during office hours from the Office of the Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat at the 2nd Floor, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Complex, A. Mabini St., Malate, Manila. Bid Documents may be purchased for a non-refundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00).

The schedule of activities is as follows, as follows:

	Activities	Schedules
1	Issuance of Bid Documents	Starting 10 May 2011 Hours 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. only) Payment of Fee Room 313, 3rd Floor, Fiber Glass Building A. Mabini corner P. Ocampo St. Malate, Manila Tel. No. 552-7777 local 3089/3114 fax: 3010387
2	Pre-bid Conference	13 June 2011, 2:00 PM, MALA
3	Opening of Bids	27 June 2011, 10:00 A.M. MALA
4	Bid Evaluation	Shall start on or in accordance with the prescribed period
5	Post-qualification	Within 72 hours from receipt of BAC of A. No. 9184
6	Notice of Award	

The T/R and Invitation to Bid/proposals for Bidders may be downloaded from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PHILGEPS) and the BSP website. Prospective bidders are required to submit the following documents in the BSP Central Receiving Section, 2nd Floor, Main Building, A. Mabini St., Malate, Manila:

1. Duly accomplished Bid Form signed by the authorized representative of the bidder;
2. Bid Security in the form of a manager's check, cashier's check, bank draft/guarantee or irrevocable letter of credit issued by a universal or commercial bank, or surety bond callable upon demand, in favor of the BSP, in the amount of Php 44,000.00;
3. Valid and current Mayor's/Business Permit issued by the city or municipality where the principal place of business of the prospective bidder is located;
4. Valid and current Tax Clearance per Executive Order 398, Series of 2005, as finally reviewed and approved by the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR);
5. Valid and current Philippine Government Registration Certificate issued by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), for corporations, cooperatives or partnerships; and
6. Valid and current Philippine Government Registration Certificate issued by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), for sole proprietorships.

The BSP reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defect therein, to accept the bid most advantageous to the government, and to annul the bidding process at any time without incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

(Sgd.) VICTOR G. GARCIATIN
Chairman, BAC

(BSP – May 12, 2011)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
MINDANAO RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Program Support Office
2/4 F. Alvarez Bldg., Arajinogin St. Ave., Lanang, Davao City

May 10, 2011

NOTICE OF HIRING FOR THE TECHNICAL WRITER

The Mindanao Rural Development Program is urgently looking for interested applicants to fill up the newly opened positions of TECHNICAL WRITER.

The post will be based at the Program Support Office at Alvarez Bldg., Arajinogin Avenue, Davao City and his/her duties is expected to commence on June 01, 2011.

For information on tasks and responsibilities, expected outputs, qualification and reporting, please log on to **www.mindrdp.net**.

Only applications received on or before May 27, 2011 will be considered. Short-listed applicants will be contacted for the schedule of written examination and interviews.

Those submit application letter with 1x1 picture and comprehensive CV and letter of endorsement from the immediate supervisor/ Barangay/ municipal/ city the qualifications and responsibilities to the address below or email to **mrdp_psu@yahoo.com**.

GEALYN A. RAMOS, Program Director
MINDANAO RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM – RPL2
Program Support Office
2/4 Fr. Alvarez Building, Arajinogin Avenue, Lanang, Davao City
Tel. No. (082) 298-4001
Fax No.: (082) 298-4001
Email: **mrdp_psu@yahoo.com**

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Regional Office No. XI
F. Bangoy Bldg. 1, Brgy. Poblacion, Lupon, Davao Oriental
Telefax Nos.: (087) 811-2980

May 10, 2011

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT (AEP)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with the Regional Office applications for Alien Employment Permits:

	Name and Address of Company/Employer	Name and Citizenship of Foreign National	Position and Brief Description of Functions
1.	BRENT INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL - DAVAO Km. 7, Mahayahay Talomo, Davao City	Mr. Joseph Ben Lawson American	Director for Academic Affairs
2.	BRENT INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL - DAVAO Km. 7, Mahayahay Talomo, Davao City	Ms. Jessica Ellen Rosencrantz American	Upper School Teacher
3.	BRENT INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL - DAVAO Km. 7, Mahayahay Talomo, Davao City	Ms. Kara Johnson O'Gorman American	Middle School Teacher
4.	TONY S. ACKEY BEAUTY SALON CORP. SM City Davao, Davao City	Ms. Shina Lee Korean	Hair Stylist
5.	TONY S. ACKEY BEAUTY SALON CORP. SM City Davao, Davao City	Ms. Kim Phan Korean	Hair Stylist
6.	TONY S. ACKEY BEAUTY SALON CORP. SM City Davao, Davao City	Ms. Ji Young Lee Korean	Hair Stylist
7.	TONY S. ACKEY BEAUTY SALON CORP. SM City Davao, Davao City	Ms. Hyekyung Kim Korean	Hair Stylist
8.	ISUZU PHILIPPINES CORPORATION Isuzu Avenue, Mintal Davao City	Mr. Takeshi Sandai Japanese	Head of Sales Division
9.	MITSUBISHI PHILIPPINES CORPORATION C.P. Bldg. Tow, Makati Metro Manila	Mr. Jeremy Evans British	General Manager
10.	MITSUBISHI PHILIPPINES CORPORATION C.P. Bldg. Tow, Langkan Davao City	Mr. Shuma Tadaguchi Japanese	Engineering Manager Engineering Department
11.	ASIA FORGING CO. OF DAVAO, INC. Km. 7, Brgy. Sasa City, Davao City	Mr. Kazuo Ikeda Japanese	Operation Vice President - Quality Control & Head Engineering Division
12.	PHILIPPINE RELIEF PRODUCTION CORPORATION Lanang, Davao City	Mr. Xiangming Luo Chinese	Sales Engineer

If you have any information/objection to the above mentioned applications please communicate with this Regional Director.

ATTY. RICARDO S. MARTINEZ, JR. CESO III
Regional Director

(BAC – May 12, 2011)

PAMPANGA I ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
STO. DOMINGO, MEXICO, PAMPANGA
Tel. No. (045) 860-0123
Fax No. (045) 860-0123
E-mail: CHRIS.SUBA@YAHOO.COM

May 10, 2011

INVITATION TO BID

Pursuant to the provisions of Republic Act No. 9184, the Pampanga I Electric Cooperative, Inc. (PELCO I) through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites all eligible contractors to bid for the following project:

Labor & Materials of San Luis Area Building & Perimeter Fence

Prospective bidders should have completed a similar requirement/ project and considered from a third to project servicing in at least 50% of the ABC. The Eligible Bidder/s remaining as valid as the Philippine Government of Bids shall use only shareholders/ agencies' orders. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

Interested and qualified bidder/s may obtain and purchase the Bid Documents starting May 9, 2011 during office hours from the Office of the Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat at the 2nd Floor, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Complex, A. Mabini St., Malate, Manila. Bid Documents may be purchased for a non-refundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00).

The schedule of activities is as follows, as follows:

	Activities	Schedules
1	Issuance of Bid Documents	Starting 10 May 2011 Hours 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. only) Payment of Fee Room 313, 3rd Floor, Fiber Glass Building A. Mabini corner P. Ocampo St. Malate, Manila Tel. No. 552-7777 local 3089/3114 fax: 3010387
2	Pre-bid Conference	13 June 2011, 2:00 PM, MALA
3	Opening of Bids	27 June 2011, 10:00 A.M. MALA
4	Bid Evaluation	Shall start on or in accordance with the prescribed period
5	Post-qualification	Within 72 hours from receipt of BAC of A. No. 9184
6	Notice of Award	

The T/R and Invitation to Bid/proposals for Bidders may be downloaded from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PHILGEPS) and the BSP website. Prospective bidders are required to submit the following documents in the BSP Central Receiving Section, 2nd Floor, Main Building, A. Mabini St., Malate, Manila:

1. Duly accomplished Bid Form signed by the authorized representative of the bidder;
2. Bid Security in the form of a manager's check, cashier's check, bank draft/guarantee or irrevocable letter of credit issued by a universal or commercial bank, or surety bond callable upon demand, in favor of the BSP, in the amount of Php 44,000.00;
3. Valid and current Mayor's/Business Permit issued by the city or municipality where the principal place of business of the prospective bidder is located;
4. Valid and current Tax Clearance per Executive Order 398, Series of 2005, as finally reviewed and approved by the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR);
5. Valid and current Philippine Government Registration Certificate issued by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), for corporations, cooperatives or partnerships; and
6. Valid and current Philippine Government Registration Certificate issued by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), for sole proprietorships.

The BSP reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defect therein, to accept the bid most advantageous to the government, and to annul the bidding process at any time without incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

(Sgd.) VICTOR G. GARCIATIN
Chairman, BAC

(BSP – May 12, 2011)

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

PUBLIC NOTICES

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

ROLEX
LOUIS VUITTON

RIZAL COOPERATIVE, BARANGAY OFFICIALS JOIN PAG-IBIG FUND

More than 1,000 members of a multi-purpose cooperative in Antipolo and barangay officials in Cainta have become the new members by membership to the Home Development Mutual Fund (HDMF or Pag-IBIG Fund). The Antipolo-based Marang Multi-Purpose Cooperative together with officials, employees and workers of Brgy. San Isidro in Cainta, Rizal signed last week a memorandum of agreement with Pag-IBIG Fund for mandatory coverage and membership during the inauguration of its new HDMF Antipolo branch office. Shown are Pag-IBIG Antipolo Branch Office Manager Lawyer Darlene Marie B. Berberabe (5th from right) receiving the signed MOA from Marang Multi-Purpose Cooperative general manager Nelia L. Geraldino and Brgy. San Isidro Capt. Felipe R. Sauro (3rd and 5th from left, respectively). Also present during the MOA signing were Rizal Gov. Jesus Fuares III (4th from right) and other Pag-IBIG officials.

PAG-IBIG FUND COMMITS P 100 MILLION FOR LOW-COST HOUSING IN CALIVE

The Home Development Mutual Fund (HDMF or Pag-IBIG Fund) has committed to provide homebuyers' financing for Charles Builders Company Incorporated totalling P 100 million. Pag-IBIG will finance the purchase by 410 borrowers of low-cost housing units in seven areas in Batangas including subdivision projects of Charles Builders in Calivo. Under the agreement, the developer commits to deliver the documented loans of borrowers ranging from P 100k per unit and up within the first semester of the year. Shown are Pag-IBIG Fund chief executive officer Lawyer Darlene Marie B. Berberabe and Charles Builders vice president Karl Brandy Gotang (2nd and 3rd from left, respectively) signing the Funding Commitment Agreement. The ceremony was witnessed by HDMF Luzon Deputization vice president Ramon Rianzares (4th from left), senior manager of Charles Builders (extreme left and right, respectively), and Pag-IBIG Senior Officers Tessie M. Gonzales, deputy department manager for NCR operations and Ophelia Dela Cruz-Ilo, senior vice president for housing.

AMEYA NOSA GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONIES

Peter Ty shares (standing) during the Ameya Nosa groundbreaking ceremonies held recently at the site. PTR Properties Inc., one of today's fastest-growing developers in the region decided to venture for the first time into pre-bid subdivision development in Lipa, Batangas. The Ameya Nosa project named after Peter Ty's mother Nosa Ty, is a 2.3 hectare Property that features clean lines promising excellent, stylish appeal compared to other Subdivisions in the area.

DR. LORENZO VALENCIA GOCO, JR.

of Tawiran, Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro

Joined his Creator on May 9, 2011 at the age of 79.

He is survived by wife **Mita Navarro Goco**; children **Dr. Melinda, Engr. Randy & Dr. Christia, Noel & Marion, Mario & Ana, Drs. Alex & Galo** and **Bokbok**.

Brothers:
Engr. Roldolfo (+) & **Fleurdeliz** (+),
Dr. Romulo (+) & **Barbara** (+),
Dr. Rolando & **Mary**,
Dr. Augusto (+) & **Emelita Luna-Goco**.

Grandchildren: **Renzo, Linus, Jethro, Ethan, Tristan, Alexa, Brenna, Rio, Diego, Goran, Lucas** and **Rian**.

His remains lie in state at Tawiran, Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro.

Interment will be on Friday, May 13, 2011 after 1:00 p.m. mass at Calapan Memorial Garden.

In Loving Memory of

Atty. Alfredo A. Dy

December 27, 1971 – May 12, 2008

"Those we love don't go away.
They walk beside us, unseen, unheard
but always near.
Still loved, still missed, still very dear.
Remembered today and everyday."

United Bayanihan Foundation & Unilab Retirees Mass Offerings

in commemoration of the 3rd Death Anniversary of

Mr. Mariano K. Tan

May 13, 2011

Ascension of Our Lord Church, *Novaliches, Quezon City*	6:30 P.M.
Immaculate Conception Parish, *Antipolo City*	8:00 A.M.
Kamay ni Jesus Healing Church, *Lucban, Quezon*	9:00 A.M.
Metropolitan Cathedral, *Naga City*	5:30 A.M.
Metropolitan Cathedral, *San Fernando City, Pampanga*	7:00 A.M.
Our Lady of Fatima Parish, *Ekivale Village San Pedro, Laguna*	7:30 P.M.
Our Lady of Fatima Parish, *Highway Hills Mandaluyong*	6:00 P.M.
Saint Catherine of Alexandria Church, *Dumaguete City*	5:15 P.M.
San Isidro Labrador Parish Church, *Nangka, Marikina City*	6:00 A.M.
San Sebastian Cathedral, *Bacolod City*	7:00 A.M.
St. Ferdinand Cathedral, *Laoang City*	6:00 A.M.
St. Joseph the Worker Parish Church, *Palanan, Makati City*	6:00 A.M.
St. Peter & John Parish, *Potrero, Malabon*	6:30 P.M.
St. John the Baptist Parish, *San Juan, La Union*	6:30 A.M.
Sta Clara de Montefalco Parish, *P. Burgos St., Pasay City*	7:00 A.M.
Sto Niño Parish	6:00 A.M.

Pasig Green Park Village, Mangyahan, Pasig City

DEATH NOTICE

MRS. NENA PAN RESPALL
of Goa, Camarines Sur
Died in the peace of our Lord on May 11, 2011 at the age of 85.

Her body lies in state at her residence in Pandan St. Goa, Camarines Sur.
Interment will be announced later.

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
- Copy of Death Certificate
- Any identification document (I.D.)

ANNOUNCEMENT

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SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City
635-0213 • 687-0294 • Fax 635-0203

GF Traveller's Life Bldg., 490 T.M. Kalaw St., Ermita Manila (in front of National Library)
Trunkline 525-5576 local 110 or 110 • Telefax 526-0213

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."
(2 Timothy 4)

Power Situation Outlook
for Thursday, 12 May 2011

	Low	Game	Reserve
Luzon Grid (MW)	6,228	1,754	1,230
Visayas Grid (MW)	1,184	1,006	1,181
Mindanao Grid (MW)	933	434	100

Please monitor the NGCP website for updates during the day.

BUSINESS

Globe sees market share recovery in '11

New subscribers help arrest earnings slide

By Paolo G. Montecillo

AYALA LAND Globe Telecom Inc. expects its market share to grow this year as it moves smartly in manner that its services remain reliable for all its customers.

Despite the threat of its two major competitors forming a single entity under the aegis of Globe, the company said it was now "back on a steady growth path, coming off a steep drop in earnings last year.

"From the indications we had in the first quarter, we think the momentum is something we can continue," Globe president and CEO Ernest Cu said in a briefing.

Earlier this week, Globe reported a 6 percent increase in its net income for the first quarter of the year, totaling at P9.6 billion. This came as its subscriber base grew to 27.3 million or 14 percent up year on year, driving the hike in consolidated revenues to P36.5 billion—up by 5 percent.

The company said the launch of several new products that have attracted new subscribers and kept existing ones loyal to the network has led to the growth in its user base.

"This will provide us the momentum to take on greater challenges ahead, with the market consolidating and Globe now up against an even larger competitor," Cu said.

Senior advisor for Globe's customer business Peter Bithos said the company would focus on empowering its services to ensure that mobile phone users with multiple lines use Globe for their calls and to move their accounts with other networks.

The company said it would also invest more on improving its broadband business—seen as the next growth driver for the industry. The company said it would spend $100 million this year to increase its network capacity to cope with the exponential growth in data transmitted over the Internet.

Globe earlier took flak from consumers by implementing bandwidth caps on a drop in the users' monthly subscribers' unlimited heavy downloads, which the company describes as an abuse of its network.

Despite the criticism, the company said the policy fared up its network, improving services for a larger part of its subscribers base. Revenue from the broadband arena now makes up a fifth of Globe's total earnings.

"The upgrade and modernization of our network infrastructure will also remain a key priority to enable our networks and platforms to quickly adapt to the fast moving market," Globe said.

Read Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) dominates the market with over 46 million subscribers. Digitel Telecommunications Philippines Inc., which PLDT plans to acquire later this year, has about 10 million users.

Unreal estate

Conrado R. Manual III

ORMS—as the Agaloo Unit 81 administration wants an IT person in the Comelec. We all know that the usual choice in past administrations for Comelec top post was a lawyer. Perhaps only time will tell whether or not the break from tradition was a good idea.

It is true that this country has hundreds of top IT people. They are all professionals who worked for huge IT companies abroad. They came back here to apply their knowledge and skills. Well, alas so much so of money!

But we all the many IT, or "experts" that are here, our leader Erlinda Ritmon (a.k.a. Bill Gates) chose somebody for a Comelec top post who has openly opposed an IT project of the Comelec for automated elections, the so-called PCOS.

And why must he appoint the PCOS? Well, to start with, the "expert" has been trying to promote his own system of automated polling system.

I am not sure if Gen is Sr.65 wants somebody in the Comelec who already has a preset agenda as per se, to that at?

Anyway, the choice for new Comelec commissioner of course is none other than Augusto Lagman, who has been labeled by media as an IT "expert." Maybe it was because—by his own resume's declaration—he is "a certified computing professional." The "certification" came from the Institute for Certification of Computing Professionals in Des Moines, Illinois, USA. The institute gives written examinations to applicants for certification. Lagman only at least four years of experience to "computer-based information systems," Thad is it.

Right after the Palace the choice of our beloved Bill for new Comelec commissioner, even before Lagman could be sworn in, Senator Joker Arroyo—who is not exactly known for his love for the GMA administration—was already announcing that he would shoot down the existing PCOS of the Comelec.

Now, assuming that Lagman gets the CA approval, and he sits in the Comelec, what would happen to the many elections cases before the Comelec? They all involve last year's elections. If I remember correctly, we already have the very same PCOS that Lagman seems so adamant.

One lawyer reasoned: Lagman should inhibit himself in those cases.

My next question: Why in heaven name do we want a new commissioner who cannot even take part in important decisions like election protests, which are the main job of the Comelec?

• • •

THE PUBLIC ACTIonal Bells Homeowners, controlled by Cainta Henry St. is making a mad dash for expansion in its Tagaytay highlands venture.

From what I gathered, the expansion includes a new 18-hole golf course, a new clubhouse, and a country club—all surrounded by a master-planned residential area.

And we all thought that the development of the one thousand-plus hectare property with Highlands was done years ago with the operation of cable car, bamboo transportation, inn, sports facilities, two 18-hole golf courses, condos, etc.

Apparently, Bello Homeowners knows that the Highlands' western slopes are the real estate heaven, despite the presence of other huge, thousand-hectare projects nearby.

Michelle Hernandez, vice president for marketing, told me that they even reviewed packages for easy terms, targeting precisely Filipinos in the United States and Canada who are planning for their retirement.

Just to give you an idea on how big the Highlands project is, the Phase1 development of the Ayala group was only around a thousand hectares.

Anyway, in that part of the country, to the wide-open fields south of Metro Manila, undoubtedly huge real estate projects, involving thousands of hectares, have been aggressively named in the past couple of years.

Well, the town called Sta. Rosa has a couple of huge projects. Ayala Land has the 2,000-hectare project called Hamali. The group of tycoon Lucio Tan, which has several projects in Metro Manila and other areas, is also in the game with hotel projects in China and super malls in Guam, has an even bigger area along the SLEX (South Luzon Expressway) called Evia City.

Of course real estate magnate Andrew Tan (Megaworld) and Global Affluent, both publicly listed, was way ahead of the other real estate big boys with his huge Laguna Bel. But the project, but I heard that he entered into a joint venture with a landed family for a huge expansion in the same area.

Of course the company of Jose Manuel Eller is teaming up with the Yabu and Quirino families to form Duo-so-called "Sta. Elena City" which is an attempt to appropriate the size of Sta. Rosa, another project of the big boys.

All these, if you notice, are real-estate projects—except of course the Tagaytay Highlands, which we all know to be a vacation leisure resort project.

Along the Tail Lake ridge, known for its scenic beauty and cool climate, is another project of residential projects in the past years.

Several small subdivisions sprouted, a number of them already abandoned by the developers, with one finishing the infrastructure and the other not even supply.

A couple of the bigger projects along the Tail Lake ridge also faced difficulty, such as those of the Jose to group (Guimon, Somoroy) and the Splendid project of Alex group of Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile. They all had—Somebody left of finishing.

The Highlands on the other hand has the exotic group of Henry Sy behind it. Really, the group never had any stalled project in its long years in real estate. We are talking here of delivery. And in this real estate game, delivery is everything.

INFOTECH LINKS UP WITH JOLLIBEE FOR SEEDS PROGRAM

Infotech Holdings, parent company Infotech Exhibition Arts and Sciences and DE John Bosco Institute of Arts and Sciences, recently signed a landmark Memorandum of Agreement with Jollibee to become partner institutions providing post-secondary education under its Skills, Technological and Educational Development for Students Program or SEEDS Program. This unique DTI-program encourages students to develop their competencies, skills, attitudes and work ethics that will help them become productive members of the society. Upon completion of their post-secondary education. The values development component of the program is designed to give student's confidence instill the right work ethics and inspire them to be become positive influences in their respective homes and communities.

Qualified students can avail of financial aids (YOUTH per semester, which will finance their tuition fees and other miscellaneous fees. The semestral rate for Infotech is P30,000 per semester, our schools, Infotech and St. John Bosco. The students will be required to undergo 2 to 3x 30 hours of training per week during school days and at home per week during semestral breaks. While the students are undergoing training at Jollibee stores, they will receive a stipend equivalent to the existing minimal wage. The stipend will be given after deducting the advances made for the tuition fees and other miscellaneous fees of the student. This provides the student with a unique opportunity to gain quality post-secondary education while gaining valuable professional training at Jollibee.

Interested parties may call Infotech or St. John Bosco branches at telephone numbers listed: 7777, 441-7777, 526-7777, 893-7777, 727-7777, 920-9888, 845-7788, 941-6161, 505-4040, 897-0808 and 410-8181 to know more about Infotech Exhibition and DE John Bosco Institute of Arts and Sciences and their institutions at www.infotech.edu.com and email: email: ebosco.edu.com.

HARI hailed Best in Parts Performance in Asia-Pacific Region

Cambodia, April 6, 2011 – Official distributor of Hyundai in the Philippines and third top-selling automotive brand in the country, Hyundai Asia Resources, Inc. (HARI), took outright honors when it received the most prestigious award during the 2011 Asia-Pacific Parts Conference, hosted by Hyundai Motor Company in Hyundai's headquarters in Seoul, Korea, on the Global Parts Distribution Center (GDC) and Technical Center (TC) last April 4-6, 2011.

Highlighting the automotive company's position as the most consistent performer in the region, HARI was also cited for management in HMC's international system three times for its 2010 Best Performance from WOMO, receiving number of its outstanding awards and citations. HARI is the only Philippine distributor to receive the WOMO Asia-Pacific region last year. The Philippine Hyundai distributor, which has been bestowed by Hyundai Motor Company Asia-Pacific Distributor of the Year" three times since 2006 and Parts Distributor of the Year" three times since 2008 and 2009, received 30 silver awardees, reaffirming its strong footprint not only as a competitive brand in the local market, but also as an outstanding player within the global Hyundai community.

Hyundai Asia Resources, Inc. Chairman of the Board of Directors Hari Lanka said in a speech and text to our teams, "our effort to work more harder and more passionately to serve our customers better than before and give assistance to the dealers and suppliers to help them grow their business." Hyundai Asia Resources, Inc. President and CEO Jose A. Santos SJP, HARI's Operations Director, was during an interview after the awarding ceremony. "We hailed the distributor of the year award, and we will not continue to move forward towards our goal to surpass and be the Top 3 Brand and Top 3 Retail automotive companies in the country," Engr. Santos added.

During the conference, HARI also shared MOBIS' vision of establishing market retention in the Asia-Pacific region through total customization and proper distribution to ensure customer satisfaction. Issues and challenges were also discussed among the participating countries, providing a clear overall outlook of the automotive industry in the region. Conference theme of parts performance also underscored its three synergy areas of participating dealers and distributors as well.

To date, HARI's manufacturing objective goal for the outstanding performance of its people and strong leadership network, is testament to the dedication, endurance and passion of the Filipino team players of the Hyundai Asia Resources, Inc. (HARI) as it continues to strengthen its position as the reliable distributor of the Asia-Pacific Hyundai Motor Company, Ltd. (HMC).

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50,000–99,999	2.50%	2.75%	3.00%	3.50%	3.75%	6.50%
100,000 –999,999	3.50%	3.75%	4.50%	4.75%	5.00%	7.00%
1,000,000–1,999,999	4.25%	4.50%	4.75%	5.00%	5.25%	7.00%
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LIFESTYLE Food
Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan

In Janice de Belen's white 'adobo,' 'foie gras' and toasted garlic make all the difference

"I like mine super rich... masuka, mahawang and ma-pepper"—but minus the soy sauce

WHITE adobo topped with slices of foie gras and toasted garlic

JANICE de Belen

By Haidee Bago-Bayan

ADOBO CORNER

IT'S NOT ENOUGH that Janice de Belen's adobo is rich, smooth, meaty, heavy and thick in oil. But, the addition of foie gras and toasted garlic (take the quintessential dish) makes a huge gastronomic difference.

Even a slice of *foie gras* in her adobo is enough to make one salivate and crave for more.

"I like my adobo super rich," says the Belen, who (bashful cook sure am a Gene Gonzalez's Center for Asian Culinary Studies and now hosts a cooking show, "Spoon."

"I'm a rich eater. I know it's bad but I love all sorts of fatty—garlic, mantika, chorizo, mantika—oil and some spicy stuff."

Here is a typical adobo minus the soy sauce, that's why De Belen apply salt to reduce adobo since the preference can fish sauce or patis and balance the acidity of the dish. She adds store-bought liver spread to chicken the sauce. Sometimes, she thanks to chicken liver pâté to create a more distinct, sharp taste.

"I experimented with pâté. De Belen says. "I like it masuka, mahawang and ma-pepper. The sauce alone makes me crave for more rice. I like scraping the oil in the saucepan. That's the tastiest and best part of the adobo."

Dr Belen's white adobo with *foie gras* and toasted garlic has already become a favorite among her friends who would give them to me as gifts," says the celebrity cook. "I didn't know what else to do with it, so I tried putting pâté in adobo instead of liver spread. I found it even tastier."

Dr Belen fell for *foie gras* the first time she tasted it at Jeanne Bistro in Le Soufflé. She knows how versatile yet delicate it can be. Aware of how *foie gras* can add zing to any food, Dr Belen adds slices of the goose liver into the already hearty, sour taste dish.

"I've tried adobo with all *foie gras*, but it's so deceptively rich, unbalanced," she says. "So I just put a slice or two on top."

The *foie gras* is first marinated with salt and pepper and then slowly roasted, making it a match to the mouth's experience. The toasted garlic adds texture and powerful aroma to the adobo.

"I really love adobo," Dr Belen says. "I like it masuka, mahawang and ma-pepper. The sauce alone makes me crave for more rice. I like scraping the oil in the saucepan. That's the tastiest and best part of the adobo."

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In Janice de Belen's white 'adobo' . . .

From page C2

really love featured in a Japanese cooking show, 'Iron Japanese Kitchen.' Dr Belen is the first Filipino celebrity chef to grace in a cooking show hosted by Japan's top culinary expert, Yasumi Kitahara.

Culinary fair

Dr Belen's experience in the culinary field and enhancement for her to really be serious about food.

She's been in charge of whipping up delectable menus for family and friends' parties. Among her specialties are roast turkey, prime roasted beef, steamed chicken, salads, pastas, buffalo wings and many more. Her kids also love her baked goodies, such as classic chip cookies and cranberry oatmeal cookies.

Sometimes, her children (Janella, Moira, Kyle and Yuan) help

the chefs, but already scored out and marveled) would request a recipe for her to try out, which she would like.

"That is my mistake... when my children finish all the food I prepare," she says.

Dr Belen admits the cookware cooking is her second and favorite essential of establishing she can create in cooking every recipe in them. Sometimes, even the plastic of a dish is enough to cause her to dive an apron and cook the dish. She likes Tefal, Fry and Monsieur Maximum.

The enthusiasm for cooking is also evident in how she lays out her kitchen. She has a large one, an table she turns into a work table with built-in water taps. It's also in the family's wooden dining table.

The kitchen is well-lit with open shelves where she can see everything she needs. Mortar and pestle, colorful plates and serving dishes, cookware and other indispensable kitchen gadgets are displayed on the walls, which is quite a feature.

What need to be a dressing room near the dining area has now become a cozy nook for all sorts of confections. Dr Belen has a rack specially made for spices, brushes, dressings and seasonings. Inside it are branded kitchen aids, such as a coffee maker and ice cream maker.

She dreams of putting up her own restaurant or catering business.

"Honestly, I'm still conserving enough courage to do it, though people have already pledged to support me," says Dr Belen. "But just like when I got into culinary school, I was always afraid I wouldn't handle the time. I was also afraid of the financial aspects. Remember, I'm a single parent; it's not right for me to just jump into and do things. There are so many things to consider."

In the meantime, aside from being busy with her TV soap and cooking shows, she holds cooking demonstrations in and out of Manila.

E-mail the author at ritagod@inquirer.com.ph

White Adobo with Pale Gras and Toasted Garlic

¼ k chicken, adobo cut
½ k pork, kasuge (pork belly) or pig (hock)
½ cup garlic, minced
½ c vinegar
¼ c soy sauce
½ c chicken stock
½ c liver spread, canned or liver pâté (store-bought or homemade)
½ c coconut cream
½ c pineapple chunks or kalamansi, reduced to salt and pepper then strained
Toasted garlic

Marinate pork in soy sauce, vinegar, garlic and bay leaves for 30 minutes. Add chicken and pork, fold meats and vinegar. Bring to a boil until, without stirring, let simmer over low heat until liquid reduces a bit. Add fish sauce. Add liver spread or pâté.

Stir the peppercorns. Let it simmer until the sauce is reduced to half. Remove a little sauce if you want a thicker sauce, but don't add to the sauce. Remove.

Before serving, garnish with pale gras and toasted garlic on top.

Summer takes on classic Filipino dishes

HOTEL SOGO'S summer dishes are taken on classic Filipino recipes such as bistek, balaki, and bolognese.

Crispy Kare Kare is a vegan pate, with a rice flavor in garden vegetables, a delightful crumbling pork bandeja with creamy, zesty, peanut kare kare sauce served with an, very fresh, green and leafy vegetables on the side.

Sauteed Bistek Steak in a unique way to experience the timeless offering of bistek. Hotel Sogo's version is cooked in Worcestershire sauce with tons of flavorful garlic.

Another unique offering from Sogo's kitchens is Kalderetang Barbeque. Choice prime cuts of beef marinated in special spices, and tomato-based sauce, are skewered and grilled to perfection. Six to one plate-sized barbecue, these smoky morsels of meat are the perfect pica-pica to go with your cold drinks, tropical fruit shakes and summer coolers.

HOTEL Sogo to make local recipes.

Salmon cheese spread, barbecued franks,

IT'S THE HEIGHT of summer and everyone's bound to go out, travel, and have fun. Why not make the cross getaway more memorable while at the same time saving some bucks by preparing one's own food on-go?

These concoctions from San Miguel My Great Food Club will make road trips more fun and enjoyable.

Salmon Cheese Spread

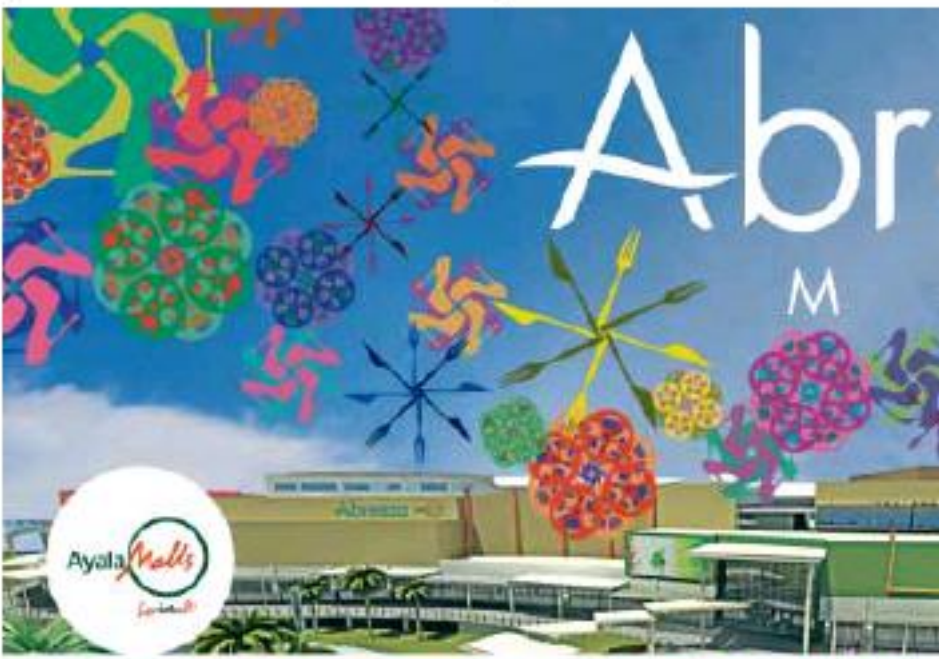
1 213-g can pink salmon, drained and flaked
1 c Magnolia cream cheese spread, original flavor
1 c Magnolia cheddar cheese, grated
½ c pickle relish
Pepper to taste
Assorted crackers or toasts

In a bowl, combine salmon, cream cheese, cheddar cheese, and pickle relish. Mix together until smooth. Season spread with pepper to taste. Serve together with crackers or toasts.

Serves five.

Herb-Stuffed Grilled Frenched Pork Chops

1 c spring onions, chopped



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J.P. Laurel Avenue, Davao City . (0

Where to find those 'perfection' sandwiches

I LOVE sandwiches. I always find myself making one.

As a resident of San Francisco many years back, I discovered a tiny deli place that offered a variety of sandwiches that I still dream about. Little Louie Specialty sandwich shop is on Italian Deli with winners speaking in thick American accent manning the counters. You lined up, looked up the board and chose among four kinds of bread and dozens of meats, seafood and cold cuts and whatever condiments you wanted.

There was never a time I left Little Louie without a big grin in anticipation of the feast. Every sandwich had a mildly spicy Italian kick dressing and another gourmet sauce they called their house spread. My favorites were the three-meat special and the shrimp and crab sandwich.

Sandy Ayuo

In the three-meat special—a combination of ham, pastrami, roast beef, provolone cheese—I had sliced tomatoes, chopped lettuce, fresh onion rings, mayo, pickles and mustard.

I'd simply have the shrimp and crab with mayo, chopped lettuce, seafood and mustard.

For bread, my choice was always the Dutch crunch. You could have it in either six- or 12-inch portions. I always had the latter.

Every time, I visit Frisco, I would drop by the deli to regard your mouthy Sandwich in one of my comfort foods.

Second sandwich place

My friend Ariesl, Maker of Sweets, and also known as a wonderful cook, introduced a new place at Bernardo called Chuck's Deli. It didn't take a lot to convince me to try it after the rave. Ariesl the resident inspiration in posting on the... Little Louie Deli in Camino Real of South San Francisco. I was there that same day.

Until then I had not found anything in Manila that came close to the sandwiches I was used.

A good sandwich must start with superior bread. She has that. To me, her bread is even better than Little Louie's Dutch Crunch. It is a bit crunchier. But what makes it more is it is very light. It is so heavenly that a friend, Opy, likes to eat his sandwich upside down so as not to scrape the roof of his mouth.

I tried her "Salonikos," but I went back three consecutive days for her California Wahi, Smokes and Vegetarian sandwiches. There are others on the menu, but these have become my favorites. The Cali-Jamie Wahi has Japanese beef, mango, hard-boiled egg and wasabi mayo.

The Smokes with roasted beef and pastrami, Swiss cheese and Chorizo sauce, and the vegetarian with herbed and grilled zucchini, eggplant, tomato, roasted garlic, feta cheese and Chorizo sauce. Yummy!! I almost forgot to say more about Salonikos.

She also has "Salonikos" that also look yummy, a burger my daughter Ali swears by and many interesting others. The milk shakes look extremely fattening, that's why I'm sure they will be thick and delicious. They're made with ovaltine's milk and there are ovaltine flavor ones also—from vanilla, chocolate, strawberry, caramel, coffee crumble, guanabana, avocado and ube).

Just reading about this makes me want to drive there this minute. With this beer, they're all perfection!

Chuck's Deli is in Alexandra, Tagaig. Call 0746210 or 8810724. E-mail sandyblanco@yahoo.com

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coffee jelly tiramisu—road trip favorites

...ngiapo, finely chopped
...ngiapo, finely chopped
...alkohol, finely chopped
...nti
...Rosemary Roasted Pork Chops, ...ish
...and pepper
...Magnolia Heart...ed
...ine the first 3 ingredients in a ...ool. Set aside. Make a slit on the ...porkchops as if making a pocket. Stuff the chops with the herb mixture. Season with salt and pepper. Drizzle with oil to keep moist. Grill until fully cooked. Serve while hot. Makes six pieces.

Coffee Jelly Tiramisu

Coffee Jelly:
2 tsp unflavored gelatin powder
½ cup fine Mig Coffee Black
1 cup sugar

Cream Filling:
1 1/2 kg pack Magnolia Cream Cheese, softened and at room temp.
2 c all purpose cream (½ c at room temp, ½ c chilled)
1 c powdered sugar, sifted
1 pack chocolate Graham wafers
Pepper gala cream according to package direction adding coffee and sugar to the mixture. Let set in a rectangular pan. Cut up jelly into ½ inch cubes. Set aside.

To make the cream filling, beat cream cheese with ½ c of the cream and powdered sugar until smooth.

In a separate bowl, beat the chilled 1½ c all purpose cream until it peaks. Gently fold into the cream cheese mixture.

To assemble, arrange a single layer of the Graham crackers into the bottom of a rectangular dish. Add one-third of the jelly cubes, then pour over one-third of the cream filling.

Make two more layers ending with the cream filling. Let set in the chiller for at least 4 hours. Dust with cocoa powder on top before serving. Serves 8-10.

Love Hard. Love Good.

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Exploring cocoa and cheese farms in Mindanao

CLIVE TESTERTEN never ceases to surprise me. She has new projects every time we see each other.

I had plans of going to Davao City and it was serendipitous that a friend who makes chocolate connections told me that Marc, the chocolate company, has set up the Marc Cacao Development Center in Davao, specifically in the Paradeparina's Malagos Farm, a cultivar/first confirmed it.

Clive set aside our day for us to go to the farm in the mountains about 45 minutes from Davao City, the usually has a tight schedule since she juggles business, mom and being a mom, and that day she had to be ready to go as one of her daughter who had chicken pox at the afternoon.

The cacao farm is the newest acquisition. Clive said she had to study how to grow prime cacao properly. First the farm land was rehabilitated, then the existing trees were grafted with hybrids that are high in cocoa butter such as Trinitario. The trees when are were then had the pods covered in plastic. "Carabosa," said Clive, laughing.

The cacao seeds ordered by buyers abroad had already been sent and the farm hands were processing the rejects, those that will be made into edibles for the local market. Later we are a great tasting edible cake made at the farm restaurant.

So, there are two hectares dedicated to the Marc cacao clone farm, a research facility that will collect data on how prunning is to farming can be taught to growers. And that is for free. Clive hopes that Mindanao farmers can still come to students abroad at their farm did in the United States. She gets a thrill when she can invite her buyers through the internet about her cacao—the nursery, the site and the process. There has been a big demand for cacao from there because one of the main sources, the Ivory Coast, is embroiled in political troubles.

Cheese journey

Years before dealing with cacao, there was the overupply of milk from Anglo/Sahiwal goats also acquired by the farm. Clive said she tried to sell the milk but there was no market in Davao, like made goat's milk soap but there was very little milk needed. And we she studied how to make cheese. That took her to her former college in UP Los Baños which has a Dairy Training and Research Institute, and to Wisconsin, the cheese capital of the US, thought the Philippines could not produce proper cheese, but Malagos cheese from Davao proved it wrong

CLIVE Testerten at the solar cacao fermentation facility at the farm

Country Cooking

Micky Amin

Wisconsin, the cheese capital of the US, thought the Philippines could not produce proper cheese, but Malagos cheese from Davao proved it wrong

Cooking classes will be held at the farm. Clive said she tried to sell the milk but there was no market in Davao, like made goat's milk soap but there was very little milk needed. And we she studied how to make cheese. That took her to her former college in UP Los Baños which has a Dairy Training and Research Institute, and to Wisconsin, the cheese making capital of the United States, where she said they didn't take her seriously because they thought that someone from a tropical country could not make proper cheese.

But the proved them all wrong. A year after her first try, her first wine cheese cheese of the month by the Cheese Club of the Philippines.

In another part of the farm, the goat pens hold her source of milk. Most of the goats are from New Zealand and the United States, some traits they earn and others with white curly hair are their faces. Foreign breed gave more milk, she said. She now makes several kinds of cheese (Brie, Roung ripe, ricotta) from fresh goat's and cow's milk or a combination. Ricotta and cottage cheese both in Davao and others close to the country buy her cheese. Marketed as Malagos Cheese, these can be bought at Rustan's and Shoppesville Supermarkets in Manila and at the Malagos Farm outlet in Davao City that also has her workshops.

I told her that some people have asked why her cheeses cost as much as imported ones. It bothered her that people would not want to pay more for her artisanal products that are of high quality and certainly fresher.

Clive talks enthusiastically about cacao and when her 3 months maturation

LIFESTYLE Food

Tapas, Iberian chicken, paella, and cool interiors—why new resto is getting the buzz

Chef Gilbert Pangilinan of Kai fame proves his touch with Spanish cuisine, amid Ricco Ocampo's maverick-design interiors

By Irene C. Pena

CHEF Gilbert Pangilinan

HE SPENT a month in Barcelona with his wife in 2009, checking out one tapas bar after another, trying to find which kind is acceptable in Manila. Tapas are appetizers—bite-size savory items that go well with beer or wine.

The Spanish people usually end the day with some munchies over a bottle of wine in a tapas bar.

Gilbert Pangilinan is the chef behind Kai, a Japanese fusion restaurant in Greenhills' A that became known for its innovative dishes.

And now Cervesería is getting the buzz for its tapas, paella, Iberian chicken, cocktails—and to cozy chefs around interiors that replicates a library. Another of Ricco Ocampo's bright ideas, it echoes the small-design maverick scene of the Chelsea Meat Packing district in New York.

Pangilinan also operates a catering business specializing in Japanese food. But he can also do a filling Spanish spread. Spanish food, he said, is very similar to Filipino food—both are rich but with a sweet tinge, often simmered until a fresh sauce comes out. One thing is a must for good Spanish food: excellent olive oil.

"I love Spanish food, and most Filipinos love to drink, so a tapas bar sounded like a good idea," he said.

Pangilinan came up with the tapas menu for the Filipino palate, but still done the "tapas-ish way—fragrant, usually with paprika, tomatoes, onion. The list: Pan con Tomate or toast with tomato; Setas Wasabi Pitxos or fried shitake mushrooms with garlic aioli; Hainlee Mediterraneo in Spicy Tomato Sauce; Patatas Bravas or potatoes in spicy tomato sauce and aioli; Croquetas de Queso de Cabra or goat cheese croquettes; Salpicao or tenderloin beef and garlic.

Pangilinan's favorites include: Pinxtos Rioja con Frutas or fried string potatoes, eggs and bacon, and Pimientos de Padron or whole grilled Green Peppers...a tricky place where only one of 15 pieces is spicy.

But it can't be just all appetizers, so Cervesería's dining catalog has a solemn list of entrées, including the royal "real food," so he came up with his signature paellas.

Paella fiesta

There's Paella Cervesería with bacon, chorizo, chicken, shrimps, squid and soft-shell crab; Paella Negra with squid, shrimp and salmon belly; and Paella Negra con mejillones, tapangina, cuttlefish, bell pepper, shiitake and French beans. All are good for three to four servings, although a big eater can easily finish an entire paellera.

A good paella is cooked for just around 20 minutes and should be just an inch thick. You have to let it crust up a bit to get that smoky, slightly burnt taste that you'd scrape from the bottom. "Tasty is what makes it taste good," he said, laughing.

For those who don't mind extra calories, a must try is Cochinillo or roasted suckling pig with really crispy skin and juicy, tender meat which can be ordered whole, half or 1/4.

Other choices are Gabano al Horno or herbed baked salmon; Lubina Asada con Chorizo y Almeja or roasted local sea bass; Chorizo and Queso Spicy Prawns Thermidor; Pollo Entero or whole Iberian chicken.

Kid-friendly pastas are Fideua with bacon, chorizo, chicken, shrimps, squid and soft-shell crab; Pasta con Chorizo y Almejas with chorizo and clam; Pasta con Chorizo y Salsa de Tomate with Tomato and Chorizo Pasta; and Pasta en Crema de Champignones or cream mushroom pasta.

Modern 'tapas' bar

A typical tapas bar in Barcelona is pretty much like Cervesería: dim, cozy, relaxed, but often dingy since it's community bar. Here's to just throw local's owners on the floor.

The Cervesería in Greenhill perhaps could be categorized as a modern tapas bar. The interiors consist of heavy wood with baroque details; a bright red curtain hangs by the glass walls; there's a wall-length bookcase with old school hard-bound books with surprise bottles of wine in between them. Sexy bossa nova music plays during afternoons.

An interesting accent are the iron rectangular chandeliers which look like candelabras with candle drippings ...they are, in fact, candle drippings. Designer and co-owner Ocampo, who came up with the whole Spanish romantic vintage theme, had candles melted on them to achieve that effect, although LED lights are used now. The only way to clean those are to "re-drip" it with more candles, Pangilinan said.

The wood dining tables were made in Pampanga, chef Pangilinan's province. They have glass tops having "laminated" strips of black lace. There's a drawer from where one can get plates and cutlery. The plates are in solid colors like graphite and off-white, and are offset by red-dish crystal glasses.

Wine buffet

Cervesería's façade could look intimidating, as Pangilinan introduced a venue on happy hour, with cheaper beer and wine. "Tapas is what makes it taste good," he said, laughing.

CERVESERÍA in Greenhills' L-Mezzo, goes by the tagline Comida, bebida y alegría para todos—"Food, drink and joy for all."

Tapas, Iberian chicken, paella, and cool interiors—why new resto is getting the buzz

PAELLA Carnivorella

ROMANTIC Spanish wrap reminiscent of a library. Horizontal chandeliers with handmade candle-dripping design, red glasses and curtains, glass top cables with drawers

From page D1

wine bottle, at P588 per head.

"Since we recently opened, diners are usually expats who are familiar with tapas bars, some families on weekends and Makati office workers," he said. "We wanted to jazz it up so DLI's spin on Saturdays, playing hip-hop, '80s, house tunes to give the restaurant a fun party feel."

If you have more room for dessert, there's Cannoligi, Creme Catalana, Churros con Chocolate, Caramelized Banana with Raspberry Ice Cream and Rice Pudding with Coffee Ice Cream.

Pan Con Tomate

4 pc sliced ciabatta or crusty bread
1 garlic clove
Extra-virgin olive oil
Ripe tomato cut in half
Salt
Grill bread. Rub with garlic and drizzle with olive oil.

POLLO Iberico—whole Iberian chicken

Rub the tomato on the grilled bread. Sprinkle with salt.
Serve first.

Nylon Clams in White Wine

1 lb nylon clams
1 head garlic, cut in half across
2 pc bay leaf
300 ml dry white wine
1 pc jalapeño pepper
2 tbsp extra-virgin olive oil
Serves four

Put everything in a saucepan, cover and steam over medium heat until clams open. Discard unopened clams.

TAPAS sampler

PASTA on Crema de Champignons—cream mushroom pasta

BABY razor clams in olive oil

CHURROS con Chocolate

WINE selection

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Croquettas de Jamon

DINING OUT

INTERCONTINENTAL MANILA's Gambrinus Bar offers bottomless Spanish wines for only P788 net per person, 5-9p.m. An a la carte of Spanish tapas also awaits diners. Among the chef's delicacies are Croquettas de Jamon (lightly breaded fritters with ham filling). Albondigas (spiced meatballs with tomato sauce), Boquerones al natural (anchovies marinated in lemon and vinegar) and Mejillon Banadas con Chorizo (chorizo with white beans). For reservations, call 7837000.

BABY BACK RIBS

Rob & Co. now offers delightful combination called "Our Best Fish & Ribs" Platter starting at P395. The restaurant also offers its signature dish, Rob & Chips. Meat lovers, meanwhile, can indulge in succulent baby back ribs that are marinated in and basted with the restaurant's own barbecue sauce, steam-baked and grilled. Dining guests will receive a P100 gift certificate for an order of any of these main courses which they can use on their next visit. Rob and Co. branches are at Greenbelt 1, Makati (tel. 7291402); Shangri-La Plaza Mall (9102148); SM Mall of Asia (7369178); Ayala Malls Manila Bay (8323826); and Alabang Town Center (8850476).

Israel food festival

Seasoned restaurateur-chef and in-demand lecturer Michael Katz from Israel is coming to Manila for a special food festival at Intercontinental Manila, until May 15. Hotel guests can enjoy popular dishes from his home country when they partake of the lunch buffet at Cafe Segovia. The internationally renowned Cordon Bleu chef is a director of Kenes Spices and executive chef of Kosap Adom which specializes in restaurants, namely Adom, Eclony and Lavanim Jerusalem.

Typhoon Shelter Crab

Cordillera offers Crab Machiavo, Singaporean Black Pepper Crab, Thai Spring Rolls with Shrimps, Seafood Roll, Shankarlo Dumplings, Baked New Zealand Mussels, Pesto Clams in Chili Black Beans, Steamed Garlic Oysters, Cantonese Ribs, Shrimp Pad Thai, Hainan Bo Bibay Noodles, Salt and Pepper Squid. Cordillera also accepts catering and reservations. Cordillera branches are at Rockwell Power Plant Mall, Makati (tel. 7284452); Shangri-La Plaza Mall (6130696); Trinoma Mall (9513607).

TAPAS.DG

The Red Dot Allday-gro-house (G/F Plaza Venew, Mckinley Hill, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig) offers daily breakfast, Tapalog, Hamonado, Chicken and Tuna Sandwich, Classic Pancakes for only P99 plus a choice of Red Iced Tea, coffee or hot tea. Call 4028811.

Truffles, fresh pasta and East-meets-West food

GOOD NEWS come in threes!

Super Good News # 1: Finally, everything "truffle" is available locally thanks to Gorilla Pahlador.

When Gorilla bought her batch of truffle oils during her trip to Napa, everyone loved it. Every time she arrived it sprinkled cool water even just eggs, people were crazy.

The smiling maids her friends to call the company and bring the whole product line in.

Now, we can have truffles all the time! Gone are the days of hoarding only for us to find that we have more than we need so that many of them would lose their freshness.

Salvatore Ferrigno began as a small storefront in Makati, Italy in 1911 catering to local families by distributing truffles, olives, olive oil and sardines.

Our White Truffle Cream and Truffle Honey has garnered a number of Salvatore Ferrigno's Gastronomia Italiana (2008) and the Outstanding Excellence (2009) and the Outstanding Excellence (2009) and the Outstanding Excellence (2009

Tyler Florence's chicken with mint yogurt dressing

By Maritz D. Cildoriano
Correspondent

AFTER SUCCESSFULLY trying Rachael Ray's pasta recipe (See DIY story, Inquirer Lifestyle, March 24), I felt inspired to try the recipes of other chefs on the Lifestyle channel.

One afternoon I came across the show of Tyler Florence as he was demonstrating how to make brick chicken. You only dab the chicken with oil to make it juicy and flavorful, the show's host, a second double for the home cook, gets or takes a few techniques.

The marinade for the chicken used spices popular in the Middle East and North Africa. If I remember right, chef Tyler said it was Moroccan-inspired. The mixture he called it brick chicken was that he put a piece of heavy brick (wrapped in aluminum foil) on top of the chicken to weigh it down while it was grilling, in order to keep the chicken skin from overcooking.

I think the also cancer that the chicken would be flat on the grill so that the cooking is even. Hang said the chicken recipe he also demonstrated how to make the accompanying mint yoghurt dressing and apricot couscous.

After watching the show, I looked up his recipe on the food Network website and was glad to find it there (www.foodnetwork.com). That was certainly helpful, because I was able to get the exact measurements of the ingredients. With that I bought all the ingredients needed and cooked the dish the following day.

CHICKEN with Mint Yogurt Dressing

Wow! The chicken really lived up to my expectations. Every bite was terrific and moist. It was as if the flavors were doing a belly dance on my palate, with the mint yoghurt dressing providing the background music. I didn't even have time to make the couscous and just served the chicken with rice. But the next day, still having some leftovers, I served the chicken with pita bread, and it was delightful, too.

I did have to make some adjustments on the recipe. For example, I didn't have any brick at home, so I used a cast iron grill pan instead, which I bought at SM Mall (or around P800 on the website; chef Tyler does suggest a cast iron pan as a substitute). The pan was just as heavy as a piece of brick, and it can be used for other cooking purposes too, so the investment was worth it.

And since the marinade served me to be plentiful, I also marinated, in addition to the two chicken halves called for in the recipe, three pieces of chicken thighs, and found that it works just as well as a whole chicken cut in half.

Here's my take on Tyler Florence's brick chicken recipe. (To catch his show on the Lifestyle channel, check TV listings).

Chicken with Mint Yogurt Dressing

For the chicken and marinade:

1 whole large chicken, split in half down the back, or 6-10 chicken thighs and legs
1 tsp paprika
1 tsp cayenne or espresso with red pepper
1 tsp warm salt
¼ c olive oil
1 lemon
2 tbsp cumin seeds
2 tbsp whole coriander
2 sticks cinnamon (2 inch pc)
¼ c extra virgin olive oil
Wash the chicken well and pat dry with paper towels. Set aside.

In a bowl, combine paprika, cayenne, salt, olive oil and juice of 1 lemon. Set aside.

In a skillet, combine cumin seeds, coriander and cinnamon and toast over low heat, stirring with a heat-proof spatula or spatula so keep them from burning. When fragrant, remove from pan, grinder or a blender and process until finely ground. (DI: Found the option to either use one using a mortar and pestle.) Add these ground spices to the paprika olive oil mixture and blend well.

Rub the chicken with the marinade mixture. Place the chicken in a container and pour any remaining marinade all over the chicken. Cover container and marinate chicken for at least four hours or overnight (keep in refrigerator or cooler).

When ready to cook: Preheat oven to 375°F (190°C). Heat a large cast iron skillet or any heavy grill pan to high heat and pour in the extra virgin olive oil.

Arrange the chicken, skin side down, in the hot pan (cook in batch only per over if a pan of brick wrapped in aluminum foil or a heavy cast iron grill pan to weigh the chicken down). This will prevent the chicken skin from contracting and causes that all the surfaces of the chicken touch the skillet or grill pan evenly.

Sear the chicken to medium and let the chicken cook for 10-15 minutes or until golden brown. Transfer chicken and all the liquid to the pan to an oven-proof dish. Put in preheated oven and cook for 20-25 minutes or until chicken is fully cooked and tender. Serve with mint yoghurt dressing (recipe follows) and rice, or with apricot couscous or pita bread.

For the mint yoghurt dressing:

1½ c plain Greek-style yoghurt
½ c chopped fresh cilantro (coriander) leaves
½ c chopped fresh mint leaves
2 stems spring onions (green parts only), diced
2 tbsp honey
Juice of 1 lemon
1 tbsp extra-virgin olive oil
Salt and pepper

Combine all the yoghurt, cilantro and mint leaves, spring onions, honey, lemon juice and olive oil in a blender. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Process in blender until smooth. Or you can also just mix everything together in a mixing bowl.

Rich, exotic—as if the flavors were doing a belly dance on my palate, with the mint yoghurt dressing providing the background music

Cook's tips:

- When buying the chicken, have the butcher or similar vendor split the chicken in half down the back. Chef Tyler also removes the chicken backbone, breast bone and rib cage. But I found that this is hard to explain to the butcher so I ended up just getting two parts that seem to be sticking out of the chicken.
- Chicken legs and thighs are a good substitute for a whole chicken.
- To make your efforts worthwhile, use a large chicken. Magnolia now sells free range chicken, organic chicken and antibiotic-free chicken in its chicken stations in the supermarkets.
- If you can't find cinnamon sticks, just use about one to two tablespoons ground cinnamon.
- If desired, you can add more or use less of the cilantro, mint leaves and spring onions.
- For Tyler Florence's recipe for apricot couscous, and for more on the brick chicken, visit www.foodnetwork.com and type "brick chicken" in the search box. Or go to www.tylerflorence.com.

Mix well and refrigerate for at least 1 hour before serving.

Serves 4 to 6

For more recipes, tips and menus, visit www.nutritionfoundation.com or www.pinoyfoodcountry.com/nutritionfoundation.

Makes four servings

Exhibit showcases tuna products processed without MSG, artificial coloring

RM FOOD PRODUCTS, a family-run enterprise based in Cebu and Santos City, manufactures innovative value-added tuna products without monosodium glutamate and artificial coloring.

RM Food Products avoids using these substances so its tuna products will provide more delicious health benefits without sacrificing flavor.

Other products retain their natural fish color without any artificial coloring or "smoking" process," says RM Food Products' marketing manager, Charina Gabaldon.

The company bagged the "Product Innovator of the Year" award for the second time during the 5th Annual Yakult Awards of the Outstanding Women in 2009. It also won the Top Buffet Award for Processed Food Category in the Philippine National Trade Fair in the same year.

After joining the National Trade Fair in 2008, the company evolved into being a top producer of tuna products and innovative tuna processing.

A regular exhibitor at the International Food Exhibition (IFEX), RM Food Products will join 35 other companies in the Partner Region Program Booth at the 8th IFEX, running May 12-14, at the SMX Convention Center, Pasay.

For the 8th IFEX Philippines, the Partner Region is Region 12 or Soccsksargen.

The PRP pavilion will showcase delectable dishes from General Santos City, the province of South Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Sultan Kudarat and Sarangani.

Due to its significant contributions to the country's export earnings, Mindanao is set to be IFEX's first Partner Island included in "mindanao" (heart of the Island) Food Show. The special setting will be highlighted as the event's centerpiece to showcase Mindanao's food production capability and to create new markets and expand industries in the region.

The Philippines is now ranked as the 5th largest producer of tuna in the world.

The 8th International Food Exhibition (IFEX) Philippines is organized by the Department of Trade and Industry through the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions, in partnership with the Department of Agriculture-Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance Service.

Visit www.ifexphilippines.com or call 8311281 or 8311200 local 264 or 298.

THERE is the gadget spot, which showcases the latest in mobile phones and allows customers to explore various phone functionalities.

Freshly redesigned, more customer-friendly phone hub

SUN CELLULAR has opened its first flagship store in Robinson's Galleria mall.

The bigger and trendier Sun Shop features not only contemporary store design but also a more customer-friendly space layout. Hot products and services are separated by zones and sub-zones to better serve the specific needs of customers and enhance the transaction flow inside the shop.

The Postpaid zone puts on view various subscription plans and packages, mobile handsets from the basic models to BlackBerry models, and other postpaid deals. The Internet-loved zone highlights Sun's best online offers to international call, unlimited SMS and text-and-surf roaming.

The Broadband zone presents the newest broadband wireless devices, attractive data plans and product bundles. The Prepaid zone familiarizes customers with the various Sun prepaid SIMs, affordable load and promos.

More interactive facilities are also available, including a mini-AV dot-art touch-screen display with a sound dome where customers can sample the latest in value-added services (games, music, videos, etc.). Another unique area is the gadget spot, which showcases the latest in mobile phones and allows customers to explore various phone functionalities with the use of larger screens.

THE BIGGER and trendier Sun Shop

There is also a dedicated lounge exclusively for managing directory where Globe "business class" services. And there's a more spacious payments area for those with "bigger" type of transactions such as single transaction bills payments and prepaid reload.

The concept shop is designed by Arbra Projects PTE. based in Dubai, under the supervision of managing director Mark Mason and Lee Roberts. Arbra Projects PTE is the same company responsible for designing elite fashion and retail stores in the country.

Call 200 from your Sun phone or 8934800 from any landline phone, or visit www.sunvillage.com.ph.

ENTERTAINMENT

Edita Estrella-G. Velarde

'Willing Willie' returns as 'Wil Time Bigtime'

By Marinel R. Cruz

THE RELOCATED game show "Willing Willie" has stolen game a major makeover. The TV5 show will return to television on Saturday with a new title—"Wil Time Bigtime"—with new games and in a spanking new studio. WILLINGWILLIE

Top tip: Think local, write global

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

It's only a matter of time before local entertainment gets swamped by the style of global nations. In that risk or strain scenario, movie scriptwriters would do well to supply them advice with pertinent skills.

Steve Glaguer, head of the Creative Training Department of Star Circuits, recently collaborated with local film Think Creative and international company Pixplo to mount a series of workshops on scriptwriting, with leading Australian experts and local screenwriters as speakers.

Glaguer was line producer of Pepe Diokno's feature-winning indie film, "Engkwentro."

The first workshop in the series was held on the National Convention Center Cultural and the Arts boardwalk in Intramuros, Manila on May 7 and 8. It moves to Baguio's University of St. La Salle today and tomorrow, and then to Cebu's University of San Carlos on May 14 and 15.

Among Filipino scriptwriters Ricky Lee ("Milagros"), Bot de la Torre ("A Very Special Love"), Glaguer and ABS-CBN business unit

MENTORS (from left): Lubo Bevanich, Ricky Lee and Karel Segers.

head Raymund Dizon are Australian resource persons Lubo Bevanich, a TV writer, and Karel Segers, film script consultant.

Universal appeal

"Lubo was head writer of 'Neighbours,' one of the longest-running soap operas in Australia," Glaguer explained.

And Filipino-Australian Bob Ilacad of Wrylie Travel, a movie buyer, is knowledgeable about film writing.

And one of the last-minute event, "The Antipodeans were engaging speakers and storytellers. Of course there are differences in the way we make script here and abroad. "But, he said, the exchange "proved that storytelling is universal."

Glaguer pointed out: "The TV and movie industries are becoming more and more global. The workshop aims to impart working techniques employed in Hollywood and Western productions. It's pretty intensive."

It's all about the craft, Glaguer said. "It's not just about sensibilities. There's a science to functional writing."

Segers added, "Western TV shows and movies are more structured and has a franchise orientation."

The best way to penetrate the international scene, they agreed, is for a screenplay to "possess universal appeal without losing the uniqueness of the local audience."

"Some Filipino drama shows are very entertained," said Glaguer. "Emotion should be to too random, though, or the dramatic economia becomes less effective."

"There should be logic behind the storytelling," said Segers. "The writer must function as omniscient in each of the narrative."

'Direk' Maryo defends Mark Anthony

By Marinel R. Cruz

CONTRARY to media reports, "Maestro Metadora" lead actor Mark Anthony Fernandez was never disruptive on the set of his latest TV show, according to the drama series' director, Maryo J. delos Reyes.

"He has his quirks, but I understand him," Delos Reyes told Inquirer Entertainment during a recent press conference for the latest GMA 7 prime-time show. "He's a character himself. I know what's going on in his mind so that when other people find him crazy, I find him okay."

MARK Anthony Fernandez

When reporters noticed Mark's absence during the show's launch, Delos Reyes again came to the actor's defense.

"I know he just came from taping for 'I Heart Tess, Pare,'" the director said. "Hindi naman sya nasasanay sa mga ganoon. Sya ang nagsasabi sa akin, 'Direk, ganito ba ang gusto mo?' Ako naman, 'Oo, ganyan nga.' Kasi, ang gusto ko, ang mga artista ko, hindi nagpapaka-artista. Ayaw ko ng mga artistang nagpapaka-artista. Gusto ko, ang mga artista ko, nagpapaka-totoo."

Delos Reyes added that Mark's "quirkiness" is the actor's asset.

"Sa pagiging artista, sa pagiging actor, sa pagiging performer, kailangan mo ng ganoon. Kailangan mo ng mga quirks. Kailangan mo ng mga ganoong bagay para maging interesting ka sa mga mata ng mga manonood," he said.

"Hindi naman sya nasasanay sa mga ganoon. Sya ang nagsasabi sa akin, 'Direk, ganito ba ang gusto mo?' Ako naman, 'Oo, ganyan nga.' Kasi, ang gusto ko, ang mga artista ko, hindi nagpapaka-artista. Ayaw ko ng mga artistang nagpapaka-artista. Gusto ko, ang mga artista ko, nagpapaka-totoo."

Heartaches

Mark is married to Melissa Ricarte, with whom he has two kids.

Delos Reyes related Mark's "quirkiness" to the actor's early

MARYO delos Reyes

romance while growing up. "He suffered because of his parents' separation. He got hooked on drugs and went through all those heartaches. He also

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MALL EVENTS

Hobby Fest 2011

May 14, 10am
Robinsons Homelife
Pampanga

ALBUM TOURS

BOYS NIGHT OUT & MICHAEL INCHYRA

May 13, 7pm
Robinsons Place Ermita

Up and running

I have written about the gym before, but it's only now that I feel I'm hitting some sort of progressive stride

BACK STORY

Jalal Salonga

FRUIT OF all, belated Happy Mother's Day greetings to all our beloved mothers, grandmothers and mother-type figures who have come in and out of our lives. We shall always be grateful for your nurturing presence, wise words and touch on the home whenever necessary.

The past couple of weeks have been relatively quiet, affording me a little breathing time to download some US study music, plan my daughter's birthday party, catch up on my downloaded TV shows (Our season's favorites are "Brothers & Sisters," "Glee," "The Good Wife" and "White Collar") and head to the gym.

More flexible

But, I have written about the gym before, and it's only recent that I feel I'm hitting some sort of progressive stride. The training is paying off in that I feel stronger and more flexible than when I started, and my clothes are fitting a bit better. I'm also rekindling my relationship with the treadmill by running and walking to boost my stamina.

In the past, I had always dreaded the treadmill—dreaded in the point of hatred. It was boring. My knees would knock together if blame genetics for that), and looking at myself square in the mirror while running just felt a bad taste in my mouth. I felt awkward, like a newborn giraffe that hasn't found its feet yet. I'm also flabbergasted, which means that to this day, I still haven't busted my own feet. (Again, I blame genetics. Proof of this is a horde of Salonga relatives who share this same condition.)

Slow as ish, I fired myself wanting to know a bit more about running. My trainer says it's one of the best fitness exercises, not to mention that more than a few celebrities (wink) shout their track times and distances. So yeah, I'm a bit overboss, wanting to achieve something similar.

I started researching—searching YouTube videos on proper techniques and reading up on high intensity interval training (HIIT). I then did several pairs of shoes. Stability, Motion Control, Extra Cushioning, name it. I probably have it. I have arch supports, orthotics and insoles. Then I bought a pair of Vibram FiveFingers (on the advice of my husband who was advised by a friend-Facebook messaging afterward), as well as Nike Free shoes. Both shoes have the manner to strike with the forefoot or midfoot, purportedly the more proper way to run.

Well, I guess they're working. My trainer notices that I've running faster (those shoes are super light), and now he convinces to my logs after the first couple of times, I feel stronger. It probably won't be too long before I sign up for my first charity fun run. Maybe.

Music matters

Besides finally finding those magical, mystical pairs of shoes, another motivating factor that keeps me feeling like I'm floating on air is music.

I've always wondered what the person running next to me is listening to. Is it hard, driving, rain-down blasting rock or Broadway show tunes or bubblegum pop? Is it Britney or Katy, Maroon5 or Justin Bieber?

My playlist keeps changing, depending on what I'm enjoying at the moment, or what I've consistently enjoyed over time (and you can't blame for words a lot). Allow me to share some of the songs with you.

"Teenage Dream"

"Glee" Season 2's introduction of Jai Ho!

NOW SHOWING

BASED ON THE NEW YORK TIMES BEST-SELLING ROMANTIC NOVEL BY EMILY GIFFIN

Kate HUDSON

SOMETHING BORROWED

It's a thin line between love and friendship

Ayala Malls Livelihood

MOVIE TIME

GLORIETTA 4

1: THOR (3D)
2: FAST FIVE
3: PRIEST (3D)
4: THE KING'S SPEECH
5: MISSION FOR ELEPHANTS / SCREAM 4
6: IN THE NAME OF LOVE
7: SOMETHING BORROWED

GREENBELT 1

1: FAST FIVE
2: IN THE NAME OF LOVE

GREENBELT 3

1: FAST FIVE
2: THOR (3D)
3: THE KING'S SPEECH
4: PRIEST (3D)
5: SOMETHING BORROWED

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1: IN THE NAME OF LOVE
2: THOR
3: PRIEST (3D)
4: FAST FIVE
5: SOMETHING BORROWED

AYALA CENTER CEBU

1: IN THE NAME OF LOVE
2: FAST FIVE
3: PRIEST (3D)
4: THOR

MARKET!

1: FAST FIVE
2: PRIEST (3D)
3: THOR
4: IN THE NAME OF LOVE

MARKET! MARKET!

1: PRIEST (3D)
2: TUMBOK
3: SOMETHING BORROWED
4: THOR (3D)
5: FAST FIVE
6: IN THE NAME OF LOVE
7: SCREAM 4

TRINOMA

1: THE KING'S SPEECH
3: SOMETHING BORROWED
3: THOR (3D)
4: PRIEST (3D)
5: FAST FIVE
6: MISSION FOR ELEPHANTS / SCREAM 4
7: IN THE NAME OF LOVE

NEW ARIBIZA

1: PRIEST
2: IN THE NAME OF LOVE
3: SOMETHING BORROWED
4: DIARY OF WIMPY KID 2 / ARTHUR

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MARKET! MARKET!

AYALA CENTER CEBU

TRINOMA

MARIKINA

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RHYMING MACHINE BY RHYMING ARROW

SEIN BY DANIEL SHELTON

HUTTS

SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY

DUSTIN BY STEVE KELLEY AND JEFF PARKER

TULDOG BY RYAN COLL

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCES DRAKE

CONCEPTIS SU BOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. For more programs or www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

7	1	4	5	6	9	2	8	3
2	5	6	3	4	8	7	9	1
8	9	7	1	2	3	4	6	5
4	6	5	2	7	1	3	8	9
1	8	9	4	3	5	6	7	2
3	7	2	6	9	8	1	5	4
9	3	1	7	8	2	5	4	6
5	4	8	9	1	6	3	2	7
6	2	7	8	5	4	9	1	3

Concepts Sudoku

		4		6		2		
2	5			4	8		9	1
		7						
	6	5		7		3	8	
						9		
9	3		7	8			5	2
		8		1		6		

Difficulty Level ●●●

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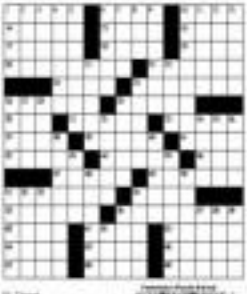

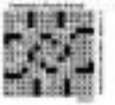

'Willing Willie' returns as 'Wil Time Bigtime'

From page E1

However, it will still be hosted by the controversial Willie Revillame, according to a statement from TV5 on Thursday.

"Willing Willie" went off the air on April 9 as a result of protests from viewers, government agencies and rights advocacy groups, who all claimed a young contestant was "abused" after he was made to perform a "macho dance" on its March 12 episode.

The Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB), which has been investigating the matter for the past month, recently came up with a final decision. The censors board found that the show violated Section 3 (c) of PD 1986 and thus we suspend a 30-day suspension.

The MTRCB, however, said it was "revoking the permit (of the show) to operate since such action is deemed moot and academic." This means the show would have gotten back on air on May 9.

"TV5 responds to the recent decision/ public clamor for the return of the previous show" the network said. "[The program] will (however) now possess state-of-the-art LED (light-emitting diodes) floor and area software technology for a whole new TV experience."

"Wil Time Bigtime" used to be long most on "Willing Willie" when contestants showcased their talent in singing and dancing. It was on this segment where 4-year-old Jan-Jan Suico competed with 60-year-old Rubi, aged 4 to 11.

Revillame was accused of child exploitation for making Jan-Jan perform a number described as a striptease while Rubi rolled down his cheeks. This also resulted in the pull-out of 16 sponsors of the major corporations from the game show.

"Wil Time Bigtime" will premiere this Saturday, May 21, at 5 p.m. It will also air weeknights starting 6:30 p.m. on TV5. Revillame will still share hosting chores with "Mentalista contestee Shalani Soledad.

E-mail: [redacted]@inquirer.com.ph

Splendor...

From page E1

the cast, who flew commercial was weeks rather for the second leg of the shoot.

Lori arrived in Luzon a day after the others did) on board a first-class jet — courtesy of Rocco Sta Cruz Chavit Singson, father of her fiancé Ronald, according to reports. (After a day in the classics, Lori had to rush back to Manila for "Maalaala" and fly to Davao the following day again for "Temptation.")

Asked whether her friend Ronald didn't mind her dating women roles, Lori cutely shrugged and said, "I don't consult anyone except my manager and my mom. I'm free to do anything I want."

Speaking of freedom, the Seven diva scorched the once-precious tequila from the bustle and bustle of the cast.

Since there's hardly any nightlife where they are billeted, in Carrizo, the cast got to drink during the shoot, recounted Rufa Mae.

"We'd bring out at the hotel lobby where there's free Wi-Fi and read the lies and do Facebook all night," Rufa Mae related.

Unchanted hysterectomy of the undercarriage, everyone is trying to resist "Temptation," for instance. The pals are expecting to premiere next month for the final leg of the shoot but Jolina, for sure, plans to fly back to Baron Watts sooner, to try snowboarding.

(E-mail: [redacted]@hotmail.com)

SCENE in the sand shows (from left) Lori, Rufa Mae, Marian and Sun-ee up camp.

BONDING while surfing in Ilo Ilo: Derek Chris with Marian and Rufa Mae (standing)

Up and running

From page E1

Ian Anthony Perkins led by Rhian Anderson (the ever-charming and hand-some Damian Oliver) was a jolt of electricity in an already electric show. The Yolo Bernardesque fight scene between Ian and Gino' soulful lead vocals never fail to make me smile.

'Like a 6X' and 'Rockstar' (For Exo Movement)

Since these songs come in tribute to fast living things or people, what better way to get Gino on that kick or breakdance? Plus for Exo Movement is the first all-Asian group to gain major mainstream success. The music is just plain good.

'Don't Stop Me Now' (Queen)

Freddie Mercury, you will never die. Flamboyant, handsome, freakishly talented, electric, amazing, awe-inspiring.

'Runaway Baby' (Bruno Mars)

Hey, he's telling the girl in the song to run. In so doing, he's telling me, too. Mars' "Doo-Wops & Hooligans" is, from start to finish, a great album. Oh, what a voice this man owns!

'Music Again' (Adam Lambert)

Musical theatre boy does good. This opening salvo from "For Your Entertainment" is happy, well-produced pop. And this guy's voice is just sick (the good kind).

'The Pretender' (Foo Fighters)

It wears out quickly when the guitar and drums start to drive. There's no way to recover or recall when this song comes on. Dave Grohl spending his airy headphones makes for added motivation.

'Blame It on the Boogie' (The Jacksons)

Before "Bad," "Thriller" and "Off the Wall," there was The Jacksons, with some of the most infectious dance music ever produced. This one is a classic. "I just can't control my feet," sings Michael. In no sense joyful noise altogether like crazy, being about a boy (or lady) locked by a girl(!), it makes the listener get up and groove.

Splendor in the sand

On the set of 'Temptation Island' (reloaded)

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

PHOTO—Like the true "Survivor" that she is, Sabrina Brainard brought a load of snacks and other munchies to the set of "Joey Gosiengfiao's Temptation Island," somewhere in the famed sand dunes of this rustic town in Ilocos Norte.

Solons owned up: "I have one suitcase packed with food."

All right, make that healthy food: tomato, green tea, sugar-free blueberry jam and wheat crackers. And she shared them with cast and crew.

JOHN Lapus (third from left) with hunks (from left) Alijor Adevocia, Tom Rodrigues and Mikael Daez.

Solons the Girl Scout also brought salonpas powder that, she swears, was as soothing as it was cooling.

Studying, however, prepared Solons and the other "honjoyance" girls for the sandstorms and intense summer heat.

Host Transgenders were liked. Bali's Mac Quiros suffered dizzy spells.

John Lapus recounted that every

OLINE dunsels (from left): Solons Hasnah, Bali Mac Quiros, Marian Rivera, Lovi Poe and Heart Evangelista.

HEART'S new interference of the intense heat.

GOLDEN douchet nets makeup.

week and ceremy of his body would be covered with dust at the end of each shooting day.

Marian Rivera was doubly worried about sunburn.

Like the other girls, Marian routinely covered her body with a strong lotion or two. "I also put on sun block — 100 SPF! I had my bones when I did [the GMA 7 series] 'Dyesebel,' Goshawn is special."

It was lortion, Lovi Poe agreed. "The sun, sand and wind were tough on the skin. We always brought blankets and umbrellas."

The girls did their homework by reviewing the original, shown in 1990 — long before most of them were born.

"I watched it at Jolens's house with some gay friends a few years ago," Heart recounted. "I had no idea I would be part of the remake." Solons herself was excited about the remake because her stylist and designer pals adore the original. "They call it the funniest Filipino movie of all time."

Simplest is hardest

The girls noted that director Chito Rono-Cruz didn't require them to imitate the film's original stars (Deborah Sun for Bella Mac; Dina Bonnevie for Heart; Jennifer Gomez for Lovi; Ruffa Mutuhalo for Solons; and Aiza Seguerra for Marian).

"It'll be our own rendition of the same characters," explained Heart who plays the most virginal (and boring) castaway in the film. "The simplest role is often the hardest to play. My challenge is how to shine even though my part is so straight."

The girls aren't that Dietz's no competition among them. "We don't care about that. We don't try to upstage each other," Lovi insisted.

Every now, Lovi made the most dramatic of entrances. Because of her "Captain Barbell" tryouts, Lovi couldn't join the rest of

MARIAN gets that "private corner between takes.

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